State Proposes $1.8M for AIDS

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Gay Community News

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES BIPAD: 65498

Good News for Modern Lesbians

Nuns Break the Habit of Silence

Parents' Possessions p.10 Health of Women of Color p.3

GayCommunityNews

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Rumors of homophobia at 'End of Decade' Conference persist.

Lesbians' Status at Kenya Conference at Issue

By Urvashi Vaid

WASHINGTON, DC — As the date of the United Nations World Conference on Women, scheduled in July in Nairobi, Kenya, nears, an intense debate has arisen about the receptiveness of the Kenyan government in particular and the Conference in general, to "out" lesbian participants as well as to lesbian issues. The Conference represents the culmination of the United Nations' Decade of Women which began in 1975 as an attempt by feminists around the world to focus international attention and action on the status of women around the world. In 1975 a conference inaugurating the decade was held in Mexico City and a mid-decade conference was held in Copenhagen in 1980.

At issue in the present controversy is a persistent rumor that the Kenyan government considered denying visas to lesbians and that lesbians at the Conference may even risk imprisonment under Kenyan law. Both allegations have been denied by Kenyan government officials in the United States.

The controversy about the policy of the Kenyan government and the United Nations bodies planning the Conference arises in the shadow of a recent Heritage Foundation report entitled "A U.S. Policy for the U.N. Conference on Women." The report called on the United States government to exert political and economic power to "influence the outcome of the 1985 Nairobi conference." The report seeks conservative control over both the content of Conference discussions and over the participation of people with progressive politics in the Conference. The Heritage Foundation proposes that the U.S. influence Kenya to impose "tight control on entry visas into Kenya to exclude the most radical of the prospective delegates and observers (such as those from the PLO), and [to use] hotel space allocations...to keep potentially troublesome delegations as small as possible. The U.S. should help prepare those Kenyans who will be serving in top conference posts."

One of the goals of the Heritage Foundation report appears to have already been accomplished. The recent arbitrary change in dates for the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) forum, a separate but parallel conference attended by feminist activists unaffiliated with government bodies, has angered many activists who believe the move was calculated to undermine the influence of the NGO on the official Conference. The sudden change also disrupts long-established travel arrangements of many non-official participants.

The Women, Public Policy, and Development Project at the Hubert Humphrey Public Institute of Public Affairs in Minnesota has issued a paper condemning the Heritage Foundation report as "the essence of patriarchy." The Public Policy Project notes that "American women speak in a different voice and have a different view. They expect to go to the world conference on women and discuss women's issues. As women and as Americans they will also have views on political issues which they should feel free to express. They will also accord that privilege to others of differing views."

According to a number of knowledgeable lesbian activists, a few of whom did not wish to be identified publicly, the rumor that lesbians attending the Conference might have problems entering the country originated nearly a year ago. "A year or so ago the Kenyan government let it be known that they would deny visas to lesbians entering the country for the Conference," stated Frances Henckel, co-chair of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF). This message was reportedly conveyed both informally through U.N. channels, and formally through a letter to the State Department. *GCN* was unable to confirm either the unofficial communication or the existence of the letter from both Kenyan officials and State Department spokespersons. Henckel noted that the rumor is not restricted to the United States feminist community, but that when she was in the Netherlands in the fall of 1984 lesbian feminists there had established a committee to petition straight women to support lesbians attending the Conference should problems arise. Henckel observed that "this is perfectly consistent with the way we ourselves behave in the U.S. We don't allow people with certain political persuasions into our country." Henckel believes that the Kenyan government may indeed have changed its position after "negative reaction to it was received [from U.N. and other international organizers]."

Sonia Mills of the International Women's Tribune Center, an information clearing house on women's international development, acknowledged having heard the rumors but stated that "the Kenyan government has made no such announcement." Mills did not, however, express surprise about the concern among lesbians planning to attend the Conference: "I would never say to activists, 'You are going to be absolutely safe.' On unfamiliar territory one has to be careful."

Kenyan government and U.N. spokespersons flatly denied that

Continued on page 7

"Act Now"

Marilyn Humphries

BOSTON — The J.F.K. Federal Office Building was the site of a sit-in on April 30, to protest continuing C.I.A. support of the contras fighting to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

Sponsored by the Act Now Task Force of the Boston Pledge of Resistance, the eight protesters, including six lesbians, were joined by approximately 100 supporters in a legal demonstration outside the Federal Building. The eight Act Now protesters attempted to occupy the offices of the C.I.A., but were blocked from doing so and were dragged out of the building by officers of the Federal Protective Service. They later successfully occupied the lobby of the building for an hour and a half, during which time they were removed three more times. They were finally arrested by the Boston Police, and have since been released on their own recognizance.

AIDS Conference Ponders the Ethics of Research

By Christine Guilfoy

BOSTON — A two-day Boston AIDS conference has concluded amid continued discussion of the ethical, legal and social issues that this disease raises. The conference was jointly sponsored by Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) and the Tufts University School of Medicine and was held April 24 and 25.

Research ethics were discussed in a panel moderated by Robert Levine, the editor of *IRB*. (IRB, or Institutional Review Board, is a body which oversees the ethics of research involving human participants.) The panelists included Martin Hirsch, M.D., and Clyde Crumpacker, M.D., two Boston AIDS researchers, and William Hamilton, PhD, an epidemiologist and member of the AIDS Action Committee (AAC).

Both Hirsch and Crumpacker addressed the issue of using double blind placebo control studies in AIDS treatment research. The essence of such research is to divide participants into two groups, with one group receiving a treatment and the other matched group receiving a placebo. Participants are not told whether they are receiving the treatment or the placebo. The question raised: are such studies ethical when dealing with people who are suffering from a terminal illness?

Maintaining that placebo control studies are necessary, Hirsch pointed to the case of herpes simplex encephalitis, a once-fatal disease which doctors attempted to treat with an untested new drug. However, according to Hirsch, the drug turned out not only to be ineffective, but highly toxic, actually hastening the onset of death in some cases.

Agreeing with Hirsch on the scientific necessity of placebo controls, Clyde Crumpacker described the tension researchers feel between the "desire to be helpful" and the desire "to get answers." He called the placebo control the "best approach" and added that problems are minimized when such studies are begun before "a particular therapy is perceived as effective." Crumpacker also allowed for the use of "compassionate plea trials" which allow the use of untested drugs or treatments on persons who are dying, who request them. He summarized, "The care of the patient has to come first."

In a question and answer period following a panel on anti-HTLV-III screening, Georgette Jeanty, M.D., a Haitian physician and AIDS activist, told the audience that Haitian immigrants to the United States have been removed from the list of AIDS at-risk groups. She criticized the agency for failure to publicize the removal of Haitians from the high-risk hierarchy and said there was never adequate scientific basis for Haitian inclusion.

Jeanty cited recent epidemiological studies which she said reveal Haitians are not an at-risk group. One study, which examined T-cell ratio inversions (a reversal of the usual ratio of helper to suppressor cells which is correlated with the onset of AIDS as well as other diseases) found no T-cell ratio abnormalities in a group of Haitians studied. Of two anti-HTLV-III studies, only one showed any degree of positivity — six percent of 300 persons studied. The other, she said, found no HTLV-III antibody positives.

Jeanty asked Peter Page, M.D., the director of the regional Red Cross, if they would follow the CDC's lead and allow Haitian immigrants to donate blood. Page told Jeanty that the Red Cross has not yet removed the group from at-risk classification, explaining, "It's harder to get off [the high-risk list] than to get on. We err on the side of caution, in favor of the blood recipient."

But Jeanty said, "We don't have risk any higher than people in the other 32 countries that have [reported] AIDS." She drew laughter when she said if the same logic were used across the board, all persons who have lived in or visited California or New York recently should also be told not to donate blood.

AIDS Action Committee coordinator Larry Kessler told *GCN* the removal of Haitians from the at-risk group would not effect funding received to establish a liaison between the AAC and the Massachusetts Haitian community. The liaison, who will be Haitian, will

Continued on page 12

State Proposes $1.8M for AIDS

By Christine Guilfoy

BOSTON — State officials announced a proposed AIDS funding package of $1.83 million at a press conference on April 29. The total represents $1.63 million for general funding and $200,000 for HTLV-III antibody testing. The proposed package, which will be debated and voted on by the legislature later this month, represents a shift in philosophy from funding research to provision of services to people with AIDS (PWAs).

The funding increase represents a relatively small increase over last year's $1.5 million appropriation which went towards research ($1.3 million) and HTLV-III antibody testing ($200,000). Larry Kessler, coordinator of Boston's AIDS Action Committee (AAC), characterized the proposed funding level as acceptable but said $2.5 million is the figure actually needed. In an earlier interview with *GCN*, Kessler said it will be important to supplement state funding with a comprehensive search for other money. For example, he said, it would be important to make a concerted effort to get as much as possible out of the federal Medicaid program such as home care attendants for people with AIDS. He also said there may be additional funds in the state mental health budget which could be tapped.

The funding package was announced jointly by Philip Johnson, Secretary of Human Services, Bailus Walker, state commissioner of public health, and Richard Voke, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

The announcement of the proposed appropriation took some prompting from AIDS and gay community activists who were angered by an earlier state budget which set no money aside for AIDS. Several people, including gay attorney Vin McCarthy, AAC's Larry Kessler, lesbian and gay community liaison Ann Maguire and city AIDS coordinator Anne Silvia met with Johnson to review the situation. As a result, an interagency task force on AIDS was appointed and an appropriation was worked out.

In his remarks to the press, Johnson documented the growth of AIDS cases in the Commonwealth, comparing the total number of cases, 242, to one year ago when the total was 88.

Continued on page 7

police sentenced for attacks on gay men

SAN FRANCISCO — A judge sentenced last month a police officer here to eight months in jail for his attacks on a gay man, according to the Bay Area *Reporter*. Officer Niall Philpott pleaded guilty to assault with a deadly weapon and false imprisonment. Philpott's partner, Officer Scott Quinn, was convicted by a jury on similar charges and was sentenced a week before to one year in prison.

Philpott was sentenced for abducting Bruce Lindberg, a gay man, from a Muni bus on August 30, 1984. Philpott drove Lindberg to the warehouse district where he kicked, clubbed and maced him.

Quinn was convicted of beating, clubbing and choking another gay man, Anthony Atkins, on August 25.

Both officers must pay restitution to the gay men they assaulted and have been given five-year probation periods during which they cannot carry a weapon.

pornography battle comes to n.c.

RALEIGH, NC — As North Carolina's General Assembly begins a rewrite of the state's criminal code, one of the most controversial proposals is the introduction of a bill that would make it easier to charge individuals with distributing obscene material, and would make the violation a felony rather than misdemeanor charge.

Under current North Carolina law, a person must be granted a court hearing before he or she can be charged with distributing obscene material. If a judge agrees that the material is obscene, the distributor is ordered to stop selling it. A person can be charged only if he or she fails to comply with that order. The current law defines disseminating obscene materials as a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of six months in prison. There has been no successful prosecution under the current obscenity law since its enactment in 1974.

Under the proposed change, the police could determine that certain material is obscene and the distributor would be charged and brought to court. If a jury agrees that the material is indeed obscene, the distributor would be guilty of a felony and would face a maximum prison term of two years.

The battle over the proposal is currently being waged between conservatives and civil libertarians. Although there has not yet been much visible opposition from the gay community to the proposed change, the power of North Carolina's ultra-right and the use of current obscenity statutes to harass gays are evidence that any tightening of those laws would allow officials to selectively harass gays with greater ease.

— filed from Winston-Salem by Marie Godwin

celebrating black women

The 15th Anniversary Special Issue of *Essence*, "the Magazine for Today's Black Woman," features a wide range of articles by and about Black women in the '80s, including features by Alice Walker, June Jordan, Paule Marshall, Ntozake Shange, Toni Morrison, Nikki Giovanni, Gloria Naylor and others, and is entitled "A Celebration of Black Women...Taking the World by Storm!" The special issue is the May 1985 edition of the monthly glossy which reports a readership of four million.

—filed from Boston by Pam Mitchell

more white spaces and black dots

OTTAWA — The Federal Court of Appeals here has struck down the section of the Customs Tariff Act used to block the entry of pornography into Canada on the grounds it is unconstitutionally vague, according to the *Body Politic*. On April 13, temporary legislation was enacted, allowing Customs to continue blocking pornography until the Act is clarified and revised.

The temporary law remedies some of the problems of the Customs Tariff Act, which defined as inadmissible anything "of an indecent or immoral character" — leaving the determination up to officers at the border. Gay male porn magazines like *Torso* and *Mandate* frequently only make it across from the U.S. with black dots and white spaces in lieu of copy and photographs.

The new law, however, while less open to whim in interpretation, is supplemented with a section which may even more severely restrict gay male porn. Section 4.A. (viii) outlaws "Portrayals or descriptions of the act of buggery [sodomy], including depictions or descriptions involving implements of all kinds."

According to Linda Murphy, head of the Prohibited Importations Unit, the buggery section was mandated by the Federal Department of Justice, which said the act of buggery is a Criminal Code offense. Buggery, however, is legal between any two persons over the age of 21 and between husband and wife.

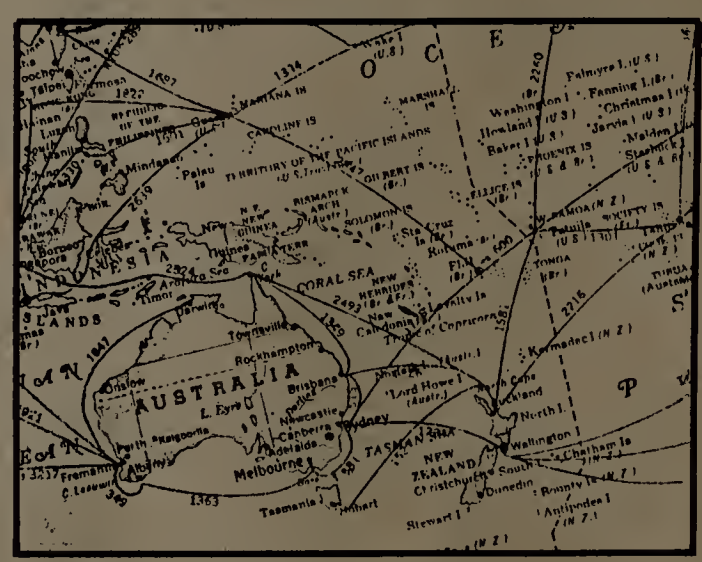
At least for the time being, Canadian queers expect even more white space and black dots.

fighting for abortion rights in spain

MADRID — Spain's highest court ruled on April 11 that the current abortion law, passed in the fall of 1983, is unconstitutional and must be sent back to Parliament for modifications, according to the *Guardian*. The abortion law, termed "timid, insufficient and insulting" by feminists, only permitted abortion in the cases of rape, danger to the life of the mother or malformation of the fetus, and only affected four percent of women seeking abortion. The remaining 96 percent continue to risk severe injury or death with illegal abortion; a few manage to travel to London or Amsterdam for legal abortions.

Even this all-but-useless law was immediately challenged by the Popular Group, a conservative opposition coalition to the ruling Socialist Party. The Popular Group appealed the law to the Constitutional Courts in December, 1983.

Although a rewritten law, which would restore abortion rights in the limited cases allowed under the first version, may be submitted to Parliament, the possibility of an adequate abortion law looks slim at present. Feminists are organizing to provide their own clinics for at least some of the 300,000 women who receive illegal abortions in Spain every year.



stonewall '85 in australia

MELBOURNE, Australia — An Australia-wide lesbian and gay pride week will be at the end of June to commemorate the gay riots of 1969 in the New York Stonewall Bar. Forums on relevant issues include those scheduled as part of International Youth Year and on AIDS. There will also be film festivals, blue jean days, book launches, exhibitions and many social gay events.

Canberra is to stage a state-based conference and Sydney plans, amongst other things, a Gay History Presentation and a softball game...pooftas versus dykes. Brisbane is to stage a Gay Youth Forum. Stonewall collectives are currently active in Darwin, Brisbane, Lismore, . Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide and Melbourne.

— filed from Sydney by Kendall Lovett

a march for liberation

NORTHAMPTON, MA — The Fourth Annual Lesbian and Gay Liberation March here will begin on Saturday, May 4, at noon at Bridge Street School. The theme of this year's march is "Moving Together, Building Unity, Celebrating Diversity."

Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Activists (GALA), the march will travel down Main Street to the Pulaski Park rally site where musicians and speakers from a variety of racial, ethnic, religious and age groups will address the crowd.

Last year, when denied a permit for the march, GALA sued the city of Northampton, winning their case based on the First Amendment. This year the city and police have been cooperative.

The march is accessible to handicapped people and the rally will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. Anyone with specific needs is welcome to call the GALA office at 586-9340.

books for children on south africa

NEW YORK — The current issue of *Interracial Books for Children Bulletin* contains invaluable articles about resources on South Africa: "The Depiction of South Africa in U.S. Testbooks," "The Depiction of South Africa in Children's Literature," and "Recommended Audio-Visual Materials on South Africa." All give a detailed run-down of what is available in the United States and rate sources according to racism, sexism, and other distortions of the truth about South Africa. Many photos of conditions for people of color in South Africa are also included in the issue.

Copies of the issue, Volume 15, numbers 7 and 8, can be obtained from the Council on Interracial Books for Children, 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. A one-year subscription is $12 for individuals, $18 for institutions, and $23 for surface mail out of the U.S. Subscriptions are eight issues a year. No single issue price is given. This magazine also gives thoughtful reviews to children's books on gay themes.

— filed from Boston by Maida Tilchen

sacramento activists fight for ordinance

SACRAMENTO, CA — Lesbian/gay civil rights activists pushing for a city anti-discrimination ordinance here faced homophobia from pastors and grocers arguing against the bill on Thursday, April 18. According to the Sacramento *Bee*, about 175 people on both sides of the question showed up to debate the ordinance that would prohibit employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual preference, and would allow those who believe they have been discriminated against to sue for damages in civil court.

Supporters of the bill argued that it would give needed backing to many gay men and lesbians who do not currently report discrimination because of the lack of legal recourse. Examples of job discrimination collected through the AB 1 Documentation Project were presented to show the need for the ordinance. Labor union representatives also spoke in support of the bill.

Opponents expressed fears that gay men would infect grocery stores, particularly meat departments, with AIDS, and that lesbians and gay men would sue whenever they were denied an apartment or job. "Misconceptions and ignorance spread faster than AIDS," responded Kate Guzman, executive director of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation. "You do not get AIDS by passing laws. You get AIDS from contracting a virus."

No action was taken on the proposal on April 18.

Current members of the City Council voted unanimously in December 1983 to prohibit discrimination against city employees and job applicants solely because of their sexual orientation and voted 8-2 to support a state bill that would make it illegal for employers to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

new mexico governor signs executive order

SANTA FE, NM — Joining four other states, New Mexico Governor Toney Anaya signed on April 1 an executive order prohibiting employment discrimination by the state or by those who contract with the state on the basis of sexual preference, according to the Philadelphia *Gay News*. Effective immediately, the order also bans discrimination in providing state services and benefits and in awarding state contracts.

Other states with executive orders prohibiting discrimination in state employment are New York, Ohio, California, and Pennsylvania.

amsterdam to withdraw funds from homophobes?

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands — This month the Amsterdam city council will decide if city subsidies should be withdrawn from organizations which discriminate against gay men and lesbians, according to *De GAY Krant* of the Netherlands.

Activists expect the "Liberal/Progressive" majority on the council to vote in favor of subsidy withdrawal but do not expect active surveillance to determine where there is discrimination.

Discussion of the issue began here after the decision by New York City Mayor Ed Koch to withdraw city subsidies from the Roman Catholic Church and the Salvation Army, after these groups refused to comply with Executive Order 50 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

arkansas students protest cameron

FAYETTEVILLE, AR — Professional anti-homosexual hatemonger Paul Cameron spoke at the University of Arkansas to about 15 supporters on April 29. Forty lesbians and gay men from the campus and community protested his appearance by picketing outside. About half an hour into his speech, a group of about 15 lesbians began singing, "We are a gentle, angry people/singing for our lives" and were escorted out by campus security, but were later allowed back in.

Cameron's appearance was sponsored by the United Students Association (USA), an officially recognized student group which formed this spring to oppose the funding of the gay and lesbian student association (GLSA). (See *GCN*, Vol. 12, No. 38.) No one knows, though, who paid for Cameron's appearance. USA receives no university funds, but is allowed use of university facilities.

Cameron called for a quarantine of all "homosexual males" to curb the spread of AIDS. Although Cameron said there would be problems in implementing a quarantine, he added that such a program was successfully carried out by Hitler. His hypothesis is that mosquitos may be a factor in the transmission of AIDS as they are with malaria. He also alluded to the plague and tuberculosis, and said that a society must do whatever necessary to survive. Asked whether he would rule out extermination of homosexuals, Cameron replied, "That [option] is always there."

— filed from Fayetteville by Diana Woodall

News Notes Compiled by Stephanie Poggi

Cincinnati lesbian and gay community divided

Zeh Sentenced to Two Years in Ohio Case

By Tatiana Schreiber

CINCINNATI — Gay activist and journalist John Zeh was sentenced here April 24 to two years in prison following his conviction in late March on the felony charge of sexual battery against a 16-year-old male with a below-"normal" IQ. Zeh is 38.

Zeh's attorney, Allen Brown, and members of the University of Cincinnati Lesbian and Gay Academic Union (LGAU) claim Zeh was selectively prosecuted on the charge, because he is gay and because of his past censorship battle with the legal system as host of the WAIF-FM "Gay Dreams" radio show. The defense also contends that the conviction sets a precedent, because it implies that people with low IQ scores are not capable of consent.

Other members of Cincinnati's gay community have not supported Zeh, however, and one gay activist, who asked not to be identified, said, "There's a lot of us who feel he is guilty of a lot of what he was found guilty of and a lot more they don't know about."

Three charges involving "compelling prostitution" were dismissed, as well as seven other related charges against Zeh. The statute under which he was convicted involves a situation in which "the offender knows the other person's ability to appraise the nature of or control his or her own conduct is substantially impaired." The statute is most often used to protect institutionalized persons, or to apply to someone who is in a coma.

Although defense attorney Allen Brown says the law is being selectively applied to Zeh, it was also used in a Cayahoga County (Ohio) case in November 1983 in the case *State v. Bienkowski* to convict a man who had sex with a retarded, 16-year-old female.

The "putative victim" in Zeh's case, David, now 18, testified he had consented to sex with Zeh on several occasions, although his story concerning the details of the sexual activity changed during the course of the trial. David was above 15, the Ohio age of consent, at the time of the incident. He was last tested as having an IQ of 41, placing him in the low end of the category termed "educable mentally retarded." David had scored between 44 and 56 on several previous tests.

On the Vinland Social Adaptability Test David placed at the 35th percentile, meaning 35 percent of the population tested below him. According to a school psychologist who had tested David many times as a child, he functioned, "both in his ability to make judgments and in terms of his capacity to function in a world of community, nearly like a seven- or eight-year-old."

Since the prosecutor's case rested on the definition of the words "substantially impaired," Brown asked that the defense be given independent access to David for purposes of psychological testing. Common Pleas Judge Donald Schott refused, saying this would invade the privacy of the victim. Later, Schott did allow a court-appointed psychologist and a psychiatrist to testify for the defense, after observing David's behavior under cross-examination. Both men were asked by prosecuting attorney Claude Crowe if they were active in the gay community. Brown's objection to that question was overruled. Dr. Michael Mavroidis, the defense psychiatrist, who is president of AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati, later said he felt "like I needed my own attorney at that point to protect my privacy." Both Mavroidis and court-appointed psychologist Paul Larson said they could not conclude that David was "substantially impaired."

Larson later qualified that, saying he was only allowed one hour to observe David, and could not meet, talk with, or examine him. Mavroidis said, "The prosecutor never showed anything in his testimony that would lead me to believe he was not competent to consent to sexual relations in the sense of not knowing the nature of what he was doing."

Mavroidis also commented that mental age doesn't change after the age of 15, "so if you're mildly retarded at the age of 15, you're going to have as much intellectual and judgmental capacity as measured by IQ as you would ever have; and if they're going to say that this group of people are unable to consent to sex, then they're saying somewhere between three and five million adult citizens are unable to consent to sex."

Lee Hattle, a habilitation manager for a residential program for the mentally retarded in neighboring Green County, said the legal system will often "look at the IQ and not look at the total person." She noted, though, that educable mentally handicapped people "can often be led into something they don't want...and they will not be assertive in saying no."

In the Zeh trial, the court based its determination that David was substantially impaired on testimony by a psychologist for the juvenile court, Dr. Lippert, and school psychologist Dr. Beverly Beatsch. Beatsch said David has been in a developmentally handicapped program in the Cincinnati schools most of his life. She said, "He is a very, very low-functioning youngster.... Everyone who ever evaluated him made the same comment regarding his responsiveness to any adult's attention...that he is easily led."

Beatsch testified, however, that she did not understand the law Zeh was charged under, and could not tell if it applied to David. She also said she had not personally seen David since he was a young child.

David, who has most recently been in the custody of an older sister, came into juvenile detention as a runaway. Police brought charges against Zeh on the basis of interviews with David. The defense and many members of the gay community believe David, presently described as a "hustler," is being used by the police to "get Zeh." One observer said David seemed very frightened throughout the testimony and kept looking in the direction of his brother-in-law, who remained in the back of the courtroom during the trial.

With the exception of the LGAU, the Cincinnati gay community has not rallied to support Zeh. One lesbian activist, who asked to remain anonymous,

Continued on page 6

Public Hearing Addresses Health of Women of Color

By Phillipa Pinkard

NEW YORK — "In Support of Women's Lives," a public hearing on the health of minority women, was held at Riverside Church here on April 12. Sponsored by the Women of Color Committee of the National Women's Health Network, it was the first of four such hearings to be held across the country. The stated goal is to push government and public agencies to establish health care itineraries. which can begin to meet the needs of minority women. Approximately 50 people attended the hearing, with about a fifth women of color and a significant lesbian presence. New York City Councilmember Ruth Messinger gave the keynote address, stressing the consistent failure of the U.S., and specifically New York state, in maintaining the health of minority women.

In a pre-hearing press conference, Goldie Watkins of the New York Health Department focused her remarks on initiatives in pre-natal care and general health care for minority teens. Watkins said that more teenage women of color smoke and drink than their male counterparts and that effective New York state-initiated programs to deal with this problem are greatly needed.

Audrey Hutchinson, assistant to City Council President and mayoral candidate Carol Bellamy, laid out three basic barriers to forwarding minority women's health care: lack of funding, social stigmas and lack of information. And in response to a question from the press on current legislation, Messinger said that New York's only law related to women's health is one requiring the posting of warning signs on the hazards of drinking during pregnancy.

The actual hearing began at 6:30 p.m. with Sandra Salazar, a Chicana, coordinator of the event and chair of the Women of Color Committee of the National Women's Health Network. Salazar gave a brief history of the "Network" which was established in 1974 and acts as one of the primary national organizations for the advocacy of women's health.

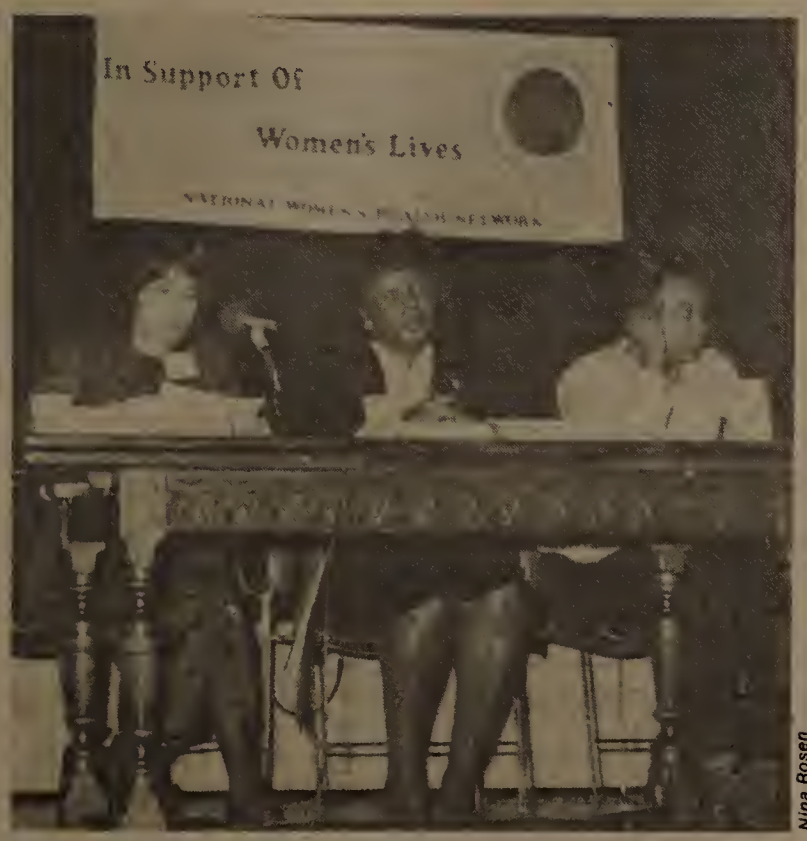
Speakers following Salazar were allowed ten minutes to give testimony about related topics in minority women's health. Following are a few highlights:

Myrna Lewis of Mount Sinai Medical Center, a specialist in mid-life and older women's health needs, said the American Medical Association fails to address the special needs of older women as a group. Lewis said that in general older minority women are treated by U.S. society as outcasts and this is reflected in their lack of access to adequate health care.

Focusing on Black women in particular, Lewis said they receive little or no medical care, especially those who are 65 or older. Many Black women must pay for their health care through Medicaid/Medicare or social security, and increasing cuts in benefits and restrictions on eligibility decrease Black women's access to health care.

Sally Guttmaucher, affiliated with Rutgers and Columbia Universities, presented testimony on foreign migrant women workers with special focus on the debilitating social conditions these women face. Guttmaucher said young women entering the U.S. to work must often help support families already here, usually working long hours at physically stressful jobs. Most of the time these women get low-paying jobs because of their immigration status. Others are kept out of the job market entirely because of language, cultural, or education barriers. In fact, since 1965 migrant women workers have all but fallen off the pay ladder.

Migrant women, especially immigrants, barely support themselves, let alone pay for clothing and medical care. The primary health problems they experience, according to Guttmaucher, were: stress-related diseases, physical abuse, and high pregnancy rates without adequate information.



Nina Rosen

Sandra Salazar, Charlotte Jefferson, and Judy Clarke speak at New York public hearing, "In Support of Women's Lives," on April 12.

Other speakers at the press conference and hearing included Ruth Clark of the Coalition to Fight Infant Mortality, Judy Clarke, administrative assistant to Assemblyman Roger Green, and Charlotte Jefferson of the New York Division of Women in Governor Cuomo's office.

It is clear that women of color are at high risk for poor health. Public hearings on minority women's health may be a first step toward redressing the staggering lack of information, services and funding currently available.

Husband murders wife's lover

Man Convicted in Lesbian Death

By Laura Allen

BELCHERTOWN, MA — A jury of ten men and two women convicted a resident of this western Massachusetts town of second-degree murder last month in the stabbing death of his estranged wife's lesbian lover. John D. Maillet, 30, who was arrested August 15, 1984, received the mandatory sentence of life in prison. He will be eligible for parole in 15 years.

The murder victim, Susan P. Tyrell, 26, had been living with Maillet's wife, Elizabeth Maillet, since the couple separated last spring.

Tyrell's body was found August 15 in a wooded building lot owned by Maillet's sister and brother-in-law.

According to testimony, Maillet became upset at his wife's relationship with Tyrell during the summer of 1984. Maillet testified that on August 15, he went to the house where the two women were living to pick up some clothing for his children and to talk to Tyrell. He said Tyrell threatened him with a knife, a struggle ensued, and he blacked out with no memory of stabbing her.

During the trial, two of Maillet's sisters, Marsha Hutchinson and Linda Daron, testified that they spent that afternoon with their brother, whom they described as upset and confused.

Hutchinson said she saw a "lump" that she thought "might be Susan" in the back of Maillet's car that afternoon. She also saw her brother wiping off blood in the living room of the home shared by the two women.

Daron said she cleaned blood off of Maillet's car and burned some of his clothing, but that she didn't know what had happened until that night.

On the evening of August 15, Maillet went to the Belchertown police station and told police he believed they were looking for him.

When the jurors were being chosen for the trial, Hampshire Superior Court Judge John Moriarty asked if they were prejudiced against homosexuality, and one woman did step down.

In his closing statement, Northwestern District Attorney W. Michael Ryan reminded the jury of their promise. "You should hold yourselves to that promise and allow no evidence of lesbianism to interfere. The people of the Northwestern District and Susan Tyrell and all the victims are entitled to a just verdict," Ryan said. Ryan said later he believed the jurors were able to leave any bias they may have had at the door of the deliberation room.

William St. James, Maillet's attorney, said he will appeal the verdict.

Tyrell's family and friends quietly observed the testimony throughout the seven-day trial. Her father, Joseph Tyrell, testified that he knew of his daughter's sexual preference, and that he was acquainted with most of her friends. "All the girls were welcome in my home at any time," the retired teamster testified.

After the verdict was delivered, Tyrell's parents wept with her friends in the courthouse hallway.

Community Voices

Design Director
(Re-opened Search)

GCN is seeking applicants for the position of Design Director to start in mid-June.

Responsibilities: Establish overall design of the paper, and oversee the layout and proofreading functions on production night. Design (or assign to volunteer artists) front cover, centerspread artwork/layout and book supplement graphics. Design the layout and graphics for promotional brochures, advertisements, leaflets, etc.

Requirements: Strong graphic design/art skills strongly preferred. Familiarity with type specifications, knowledge of printing techniques, and previous design/layout experience preferred. (Limited on-the-job training will be available.)

This position also requires a commitment to gay liberation, feminism, social change, anti-racist politics, and the collective decision-making process.

Salary: $150/wk. Benefit package includes: fully paid health insurance, three weeks' vacation, unlimited sick leave, and life insurance.

To apply, send resume and cover letter **by May 17, 1985** to: Design Director Search Committee, *GCN*, 167 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

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Freelance Typesetter
(Part-Time)

GCN is looking for a freelance, part-time typesetter to coordinate the paper's revenue-producing, outside typesetting business. *Responsibilities include*: typeset outside work and schedule other typesetters; serve as contact person for clients and respond to inquiries; prepare periodic billings and maintain the necessary financial records; coordinate scheduling needs with the paper's in-house typesetter to avoid conflicts, and keep managing editor informed about the business; and contact typesetting repair service if necessary.

Qualifications include: Good typesetting skills, preferably on a Compugraphic 7500 Editwriter, and strong organizational, interpersonal, and recordkeeping skills with attention to detail. Familiarity with *GCN* strongly preferred. Knowledge of progressive movements helpful.

Hours: 10-20 hours/week (evenings and weekends); *Salary:* $7/hour

To apply, please send resume and cover letter ASAP to Typesetting Search Committee, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St., #5, Boston, MA 02111.

People of color are encouraged to apply.

kitchen table books

Dear *GCN*,

Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press very much appreciates your recent coverage of two of our authors, Cheryl Clarke (4/20/85) and Mila D. Aguilar (5/4/85). However, we wanted to make two corrections so that your readers may have easier access to our books. Mara Math's review of the Narratives Performing Co. did not mention that *Narratives: Poems in the Tradition of Black Women* by Cheryl Clarke is the book on which the performance is based and is published by Kitchen Table ($4.95).

In the interview with Karin Aguilar-San Juan about Mila and the situation in the Philippines our old address was listed. The correct address for Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press is Box 2753, NY, NY 10185.

Thank you.
Barbara Smith
Coordinator, publicity and promotion
Kitchen Table Press

GCN welcomes letters to the editor. If possible, they should be TYPED and DOUBLESPACED, and where possible limited to five typed pages. They should be sent to: Community Voices, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St. #5, Boston, MA 02111.

image

Dear *GCN*:

How clever of Brian Quinby to figure out a way to capitalize on the "controversy" surrounding the 15th Annual Boston Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration!

I hope that he'll accommodate the lesbian community, and sell "Image Conscious Dyke" buttons to go along with his "Image Conscious Faggot" buttons.

In addition, would he consider donating the proceeds to the Boston Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration, since we inspired this saleable idea?

Sincerely,
Marsha H. Levine
President-Boston Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee
Boston, MA

mixing passion and coupledom

Dear *GCN*:

In a recent issue of *Gay Community News* (April 20, 1985), Betsy Duren reported on the Women's Studies Conference in Boston on March 23rd. Her description of my particular workshop on lesbian sexuality was somewhat misleading in terms of what was emphasized, i.e. power was certainly not intended to be the central issue in the workshop.

There does appear to be a sharp decline in sexual interest and activity in lesbian relationships after the second year. To understand why this happens and to begin to seek solutions is an important challenge to those lesbians who wish to combine sexual passion with long term relationship. There are particular socializations and often traumatizing experiences which impact female sexuality and which especially impact women in relationship with each other. Women, in particular, seem to find initiation and active, persistent seduction difficult and often are more tuned-in to partner's feelings than their own. This presents special problems since sexual arousal in women is often "cued" by sexual approach...that is, by the approach and excitement of the other person. This means that to maintain a rewarding sexual relationship past the intensely romantic phase, each woman needs to take responsibility to actively initiate sex, to clearly communicate that sex is wanted and to actively and with some persistence seduce her partner without waiting for cues or signs that her partner is also sexually aroused at that time. Couples need to understand that sexual persistence can be loving and sensitive and not abusive, and that the price of two women waiting is often growing disinterest, increasing resentment and a spiraling decline in lovemaking. Equally important is that each woman needs to be able to refuse without fear that her partner will respond as if personally rejected.

When couples live together, accessibility and familiarity often act to diminish sexual desire. If lesbian couples wish to maintain sexual momentum, they may need to self-consciously introduce new sexual behaviors into their relationship such as prioritizing and planning time for sex, building-up one's individual desire through fantasy and anticipation of lovemaking and beginning to include some amount of variety or novelty. We actually know very little about what shapes desire or eroticism, but what seems apparent is that certain conditions or factors produce a tension which evokes or enhances sexual excitement. Many of these conditions or factors seem to be based on actual or created differences between partners, or actual or created barriers which operate to restrict sexual activity. Examples are inaccessibility, insecurity, the taboo or forbidden, challenge, romance, conflict and reconciliation. Differences which can attract can be based on ethnic, class or racial difference, differences in accomplishment, physical strength, dress and/or a variety of characteristics which make up personality or role difference. Without question, opposites can and do fascinate and attract. Non-monogamy or casual sex outside the relationship can also sexually excite through generalization to one's partner and because of the tensions of insecurity and jealousy. However, this also can place the relationship in jeopardy unless there are clear rules and a great deal of reassurance as to commitment. Non-monogamy cannot succeed unless both women are able to tolerate the accompanying anxiety and insecurity and are doing this to enhance relationship and not to act out issues of anger and control.

Power differences are another sexual enhancer. Power differences can be actual or pretended and can be enacted very intensely, less intensely and/or playfully during sex. Pretended or actual dominance or submission through wrestling, over-powering or restraining can bring a great deal of novel excitement into lovemaking. The idea is really to maximize sexual excitement through experimentation and variation which may mean challenging one's own rigidities and inhibitions and perhaps gently modifying one's political beliefs or sensibilities.

When relationships are not sanctioned through legal contract or social approval, sexual satisfaction is often a major factor in couple longevity. Certainly, the mutual exchange of pleasure in couple relationships is a wonderful gift.

These were the major issues addressed in the workshop.

Sarah F. Pearlman
Jamaica Plain, MA

mass. 'treatment' vs. punishment

Dear *GCN*,

Hi, I am writing you this letter in hopes that you can find some way to help with the problem that is facing all the gays here at the treatment center in Bridgewater, but not only the gays. As you may know many of us are here under the SDP ["Sexually Dangerous Person"] law which is a one-day-to-life sentence [pending a board of state psychiatrists saying treatment is no longer needed]. But now they're trying to take the control for the treatment center away from the Department of Mental Health and put us in the hands of the Department of Corrections, which would mean the unit will be used primarily as a warehouse to keep all "sex offenders" locked up with little hope for treatment and release.

The main concern we have is the attitude of corrections toward gays. We will lose everything we have worked so hard to gain. What I and several of the other gays here are hoping is that you will be able to get the message across to the public and let them write to the Commissioner of Mental Health and at least ask for a public hearing on this so people who know how little "corrections" (punishment) has to do with treatment will speak up and oppose this changeover. I hope you can help in this matter. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Michael Fuller
30 Administration Rd
Bridgewater, MA 02324

subtle homophobia on the left

(GCN received a copy of this letter to the editor of In These Times.*—Ed.)*

Dear *ITT*:

I am writing to tell you why, for the first time in five years, I have decided not to renew my subscription to *ITT*. It is because of your consistent failure to raise and address issues of concern to lesbians and gay men in this country, and your apparent unwillingness to see this failure as a problem worth addressing.

I don't doubt that *ITT* editors would never want to be accused of "homophobia," that complex of anti-gay/-lesbian attitudes that is manifested in acts of physical and verbal brutality, job discrimination, and political persecution. No, *ITT* wouldn't print an openly homophobic article. But, as with racism and sexism, there is a more subtle form of prejudice against lesbians and gay men — let's call it *heterosexism*. Heterosexism keeps lesbians and gay men invisible by ignoring us, by treating the world entirely in heterosexual terms, by invalidating our existence and our point of view. *ITT* is guilty of heterosexism.

For the past six months, I have closely monitored *ITT*'s attention to lesbian and gay issues, events, and struggles. I have been surprised at the almost total lack of coverage. The few stories that have appeared have tended to be short news items. Occasionally there has been a longer piece, such as the story about the recent Houston referendum. Despite the fact that lesbian and gay culture and politics have been exploding in the United States, they haven't received attention from *ITT*.

I wrote to you several months ago expressing my concern about this lack of coverage. I received a reply agreeing with my criticisms and promising some changes in the future. A few short articles subsequently were printed, then the old silence and invisibility returned. I wrote another letter, which was never answered or published (the reply to my first letter said that *ITT* doesn't publish letters dealing with editorial policy — a rule which, in this case, reinforces the newspaper's heterosexism; publishing the letter would have made lesbian and gay concerns visible on one page of *ITT*).

If you think there isn't enough "news" that pertains to lesbians and gay men, I suggest you think again. Issues are being raised in our community that are relevant to any socialist/progressive/liberal — issues concerning the linkages between sexuality and politics, between private and public life. You need only look to the pages of one of your advertisers, *Gay Community News* for an excellent analysis of these issues.

I have realized that, as a gay man, it is hypocritical for me to subscribe to a newspaper that calls itself socialist but ignores the concerns of my community. Until your editorial policy changes, count me among your former subscribers.

Sincerely,
Gregory M. Herek
New Haven, CT

P.S. I'm sending a copy of this letter to *Gay Community News* with the suggestion that they reconsider their decision to advertise in ITT until your coverage of the lesbian and gay community changes.

GayCommunityNews

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Speaking Out

When the Left Ignores Gay Liberation

By Scott Tucker

This letter was sent in slightly modified form to the Planning Committee of the Socialist Scholars Conference held last month in New York. The conference was sponsored by the Democratic Socialists of America (D.S.A.)

Briefly, my criticisms of the last two conferences (I did not attend the first) concern nothing less than democracy and socialism. I and many others find it scandalous that leftists can repeat their litanies of causes and movements, and fail repeatedly to include the lesbian and gay movement, whether in subscription-drives for left papers, fund-raisers for a cause, or in descriptions of conferences. Lesbian and gay socialists work actively in every movement for social change, yet we are driven to the margins of these conferences. A few panels deal tangentially with lesbian and gay liberation, or — more narrowly — lesbian and gay rights, but our concerns are treated as secondary issues always, and subsumed under some other heading. This year two panels of direct concern to lesbians and gay men were planned days before the conference began — by our own efforts, since the conference planners made no effort to integrate our concerns and our activists into the schedule. First and foremost, I lay responsibility for this "oversight" on the stubborn bigotry of straight leftists, many of whom talk a good line on civil rights, but trivialize our lives and struggles. A smaller share of blame rests with lesbian and gay leftists themselves, who have acquiesced in their own censorship and marginalization.

This year a growing number of us have decided to get rude. Our good manners make no impression. After one panel — "Is the Sexual Revolution Over?" — a gay panelist was asked by resentful straight members of the audience why homosexuality had to be discussed at all in a socialist conference. So much for democracy. So much for socialism. "Centrism" sweeps the nation, and this hybrid blooms: the reactionary left.

Speaking for myself, I frankly admit that I would not join the D.S.A. even if its membership was not quite so stolid — *if* the essential politics of the group remained as pale, male, and stale as they are currently. The Democratic Party has just eviscerated itself of democracy — it has curtailed the caucuses of women and gays, it has crippled the caucuses of progressives and blacks. In short, it has "reformed" itself by moving right, by purging the very "left wing" of the party through which democratic socialists aimed to wield influence.

Centrism in the Democratic Party and in the D.S.A. means calculating who is most expendable. Who might that be presently? Queers.

Why should I have bothered to attend this year's D.S.A.-sponsored conference at all? I can say briefly that I do believe democracy is the esential root of socialism without which all else withers, no matter how grand the ideals and how extensive the propaganda. A minority of democratic socialists do find their way to these conferences — and find each other. That is reason enough to come and raise hell, to come and connect.

Considering the politics and strategy of the D.S.A., the present bankruptcy of the Democratic Party should pose serious questions and contradictions. Considering the really disgraceful way that lesbian and gay people are treated as queers even within the left and even at these conferences, I think the theme of next year's conference presents material for sad satire. "Rebellion, Resistance, and Revolt" — really? The words sound grand: "centering on the vision of socialism as the sum of the mass democratic struggles from below. It will stress the view of socialism as the extension of democracy, through the refusal of the objects of history to remain objects." You say you aim to celebrate "the fiftieth anniversary of the Spanish Civil War, the thirtieth anniversary of the Hungarian Revolt as well as the fiftieth memorial of the mass sit-ins that launced the organization of the C.I.O." All good causes well worth remembering.

But this celebration is too much a...*memorial*. In a less nostalgic vein, why not affirm the continuing rebellion, resistance, and revolt of blacks, women, gays? Why not state this strongly and explicitly in your publicity, and organize your conference accordingly? I will be circulating this letter openly to many others so there may be more democracy at the next conference. It remains an open question whether radicals should abandon the official left, and devote their energy to working as open socialists in autonomous movements. I incline more firmly in this dircction each day. Even if increasing numbers of socialists choose this option — and a great many radicals have never seen the advantage of joining the "left" at all in its present shape — there would still be good reason to gather together from time to time. The conferences at least serve that purpose — for socialists to meet and discuss resistance and community building.

Since this letter is going to more folks than those who sit on the planning committee, this paragraph is directed over their heads and to all the others. Many of you were at this year's conference and many of you complained that the left was up to its old tired tricks, talking democracy and setting up a small czardom, talking socialism and treating people badly. Does the left attract the kind of people who enjoy getting stepped on year after year, who take comfort in nostalgic sectarianism year after year? Many of us are active and open radicals in movements which are alive and kicking — far livelier and far more populous than the "socialist" left. We do not need to prove our radicalism to anybody, certainly not to the D.S.A. Is it useful for us to meet again next year at the D.S.A. sponsored conference? If so, let the planning committee know early that we want more and we want better next year.

And if they make it clear to us — through denial, double-talk, evasion — that they have no intention of extending democracy, then perhaps it is worth our time and effort to show them what the refusal to reamin objects *really* means.

It is time for more rebellion, resistance, and revolt within the ranks of the left, or we have no chance to fight the right with real clarity and solidarity.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.

Community Voices

hate pulled the trigger

Dear *GCN:*

In response to the Speaking Out "Bernhard Goetz, Myself": Is such hysteria really warranted? If Ms. Godwin can calm herself for a moment, and look into the not-so-distant past, we may be able to get a clearer picture of what Bernhard Goetz may truly be said to represent. The idea that human life is precious at all is but a recent development resulting from this thin glazing of civilization we have but recently acquired. Surely Bernhard Goetz is a symbol of the little way we have really come. The ideals of universal tolerance and understanding, of love and hate, peace and freedom over war and slavery are all comparatively recent in our history. Should we, then, be surprised that our lives are worth less than others, to whom the public may more easily identify with?

It's easy to hate. Hating is the child of fear. Fear of groups, of faceless mobs is one of our greatest fears and is easily manipulated for that very reason. This manipulation we call propaganda. Bernhard Goetz may have produced his own propaganda. When he was accosted by "black thugs" he saw no faces, only his fear prevailed and then his hate pulled the trigger. And the media, who made sure that Bernhard Goetz' victims remained faceless and nameless to all but their own, they had their hands in manipulating us all. We have our own propaganda too. It's called "those straights" as if we weren't talking about our parents and relatives, friends, workmates, and neighbors. And those non-gays all around us can go on thinking of us with fear as "them queers" as long as we remain faceless. Giving a face, your face, to them you begin to break down the barrier of the "faceless" fantasy. When we let them know us and discover we are human, we are taking a chance, but we are also giving "gay and lesbian" individual identity. That is a work of Gay Pride, isn't it?

I don't know about anyone else, but I want a world to come, someday, where things are just for all people. It is going to take a lot of building against the odds, perhaps. Goetz is an example of how much work is left to do. I am not going to let his hatred get me down, nor will I make him the whipping boy for all white men because there are some white men in power. I am keeping my perspective. I'm remembering that there are ideas and dreams I want to keep alive, and there is no time for fear.

In gay pride,
K.L. Ratliff
Mountain View, CA

apartheid clarification

Dear *GCN*:

I write to clarify/correct certain statements attributed to me in the reporting of the women's anti-apartheid demonstration outside Deak-Perera (*GCN*, April 13, 1985).

While I did state that the Woman's Anti-apartheid organization, the Black Sash, demonstrated in "groups of one," I did not, as was indirectly quoted, state that this was "illegal and extremely dangerous." I believe I qualified my statement with the fact that the Sash protest *singly* and not in groups, as to do so in a *group* is *illegal*. "Gatherings" in South Africa are not legal — and a coming together of *more than one person* for purposes of, for example, a political demonstration is construed a "gathering," and as such is outlawed. My implication therefore was that the Black Sash continue to protest against the inequities of Apartheid, despite restrictions imposed on such practices by the Riotous Assemblies Act of 1977.

Finally, I do not feel that I can state with any certainty that legal protest, as limited as it may be, is "extremely dangerous" in South Africa — although by public opposition to the system one could certainly be establishing a position of vulnerability within an extremely hostile, resistant environment.

Tessa Frootko Gordon
Newton, MA

Need Them Books

The *GCN* Prisoner Project is completely out of gay paperbacks and would *really* appreciate it if you have any you won't be looking at again and could drop by the office or send in. Thanks very much!

AIDS Resource List

AIDS Action Committee — *16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, 267-7573*
Education and support group for people with AIDS, their families, lovers, friends and health care providers. Provides speakers, conducts forums, rap groups, hospice-trained volunteers, hotline information and referrals. Associated with the Fenway Community Health Center.

AIDS Benefit Review Committee *(267-7573) or (725-4849)*
Joint subcommittee of Mayor's Committee on AIDS and AIDS Action Committee to coordinate AIDS fundraisers, monitor process and review results. All groups of individuals planning AIDS fundraisers are encouraged to coordinate their efforts with the subcommittee.

Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services *600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111 (542-5118)*

AIDS Hotline — *(424-5916)*
The Community Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program of the City of Boston. Staff of public health nurses answer questions about AIDS, make referrals. Collects city-wide data from hospitals on AIDS cases, forwards data to Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, officially determines number of cases probable and under investigation.

Fenway Community Health Center *16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115 (267-7573)*
Hotline information, medical work-ups, diagnosis, referrals, counseling. A gay sensitive health care facility. Participates in research efforts.

AIDS Action Line — *536-7733*
AIDS Action Committee service, information, referrals and befriending about AIDS. Trained volunteers.

Gay and Lesbian Hotline — *6:00 pm to 11:00 pm, M-F (426-9371)*
Provides information on AIDS, makes referrals. Associated with Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services.

Haitian Committee on AIDS in Massachusetts — *117 Harvard Street, Dorchester, MA 02124 (436-2808)*
Provides information, referrals, support and emergency assistance to Haitians with AIDS and their families.

Mayor's Committee on AIDS — *Room 608, Boston City Hall, Boston, MA 02201 (725-4849)*
Coordinates efforts of federal, state, and city health agencies, produces educational material, collects data on cases, reviews policy. Umbrella organization. Media outlet. Conducts forums and provides speakers, distributes AIDS brochures, referrals.

National Gay Task Force Hotline *(1-800-221-7044)*
Toll free national hotline run by NGTF to provide information and referrals.

Springfield Downtown Ministry /Council of Churches — *293 Bridge Street Room 205, Springfield, MA 01103-1402 (737-4125)*
Counseling and referrals.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Maintains a statewide surveillance system on AIDS cases and close contact with the Centers for Disease Control. Does follow-up of diagnosed cases, makes referrals, provides information on AIDS.

Mass. Women Organize

Up to Poverty

Debbie Rich

BOSTON — Chanting "We want a signal, we want a sign — Get us up to the poverty line," a crowd of more than 250 people, primarily women of all colors, and including many lesbians and a number of children, demonstrated outside the State House on April 18 in support of a state bill to bring welfare benefits up to the federal poverty level.

Nancy Ryan of the Commission on the Status of Women told the crowd, "The most important piece of work of the women's movement here in this state and around the country is uniting against poverty and racism...the real gender gap is the poverty gap and the racism gap."

Inside the State House, activists and state representatives testified before the Joint Committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs on Senate Bill 239 and House Bill 2139 which would require that state AFDC and GR grants be raised to the established federal poverty level and increased annually by an amount equal to further increases in the Poverty Guidelines or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is greater. Currently there are no minimum standards and the Massachusetts grant has fallen 40 percent below the federal poverty level.

Passed favorably out of the Human Services Committee, the poverty bill is now in the Ways and Means Committee. It is the first demand of a coalition of organizations committed to addressing the needs of poor women and women of color in Massachusetts — the Women's Campaign for Social Justice. To find out more about the Campaign, which has been endorsed by groups including Women for Economic Justice, the Harriet Tubman House, Respond, Inc., and the staff of *GCN*, write to W.C.S.J., 145 Tremont St., Rm. 607, Boston, 02111 or call (617) 426-9734.

John Zeh

Continued from page 3

said the community has been deeply divided over the issue of pedophilia, stemming from an incident five years ago. She said at that time, a gay man active in the community had seduced and had sex with a male child, the son of a lesbian activist. Within the last year, the Greater Cincinnati Lesbian and Gay Coalition has taken a public stand against "pedophilia, pornography, and issues of violence and exploitation." The woman stressed that the community is healing from old rifts and does not want the wounds reopened.

However, she feels strongly about the Zeh case, saying Zeh's supporters exploited the case by asking for support from the gay and lesbian community.

A gay man concurred, saying, "He has exploited the fact that he has been involved in the gay community.... Prior to this last arrest, he no longer considered himself an activist. Two weeks later he gets arrested and he's using the name activist, founder of this, founder of that, and he's exploiting us."

Several people said they knew Zeh had been involved with youths below the age of consent, and therefore did not support him. "He's putting into people's minds the fears and stereotypes that we've been trying to tear down for years. He's just thrown that back in our faces," one gay man said.

Nevertheless, Bob McNee at the LGAU says that Zeh is one of the oldest gay activists in the community and deserves its support. "My feeling is he's paid his dues. There isn't a strong tendency to honor the founders." McNee feels Zeh could not receive a fair trial in Hamilton County, given the past record of the county prosecutor's office. "He's widely known as a gay activist, and they said publicly this gay activism is for the birds."

Like others, McNee said he did not personally agree with all of Zeh's actions, but feels that the law is being used selectively against Zeh. Zeh's two-year prison sentence is the maximum allowed under the law.

The case is being appealed on the contention that the defense should have been given access to David for psychological testing.

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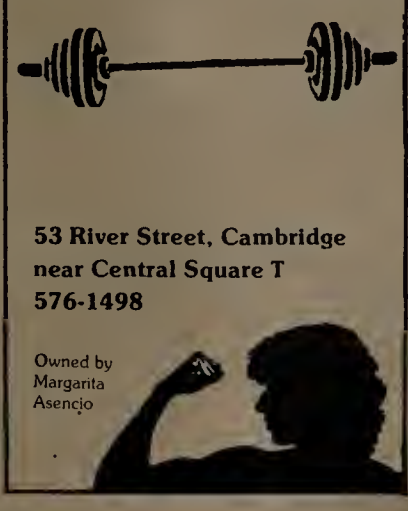

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Kenya

Continued from page 1

there is any intention on the government's part to exclude or imprison open lesbians. The Charge d'Affaires of the Kenyan Embassy, Mr. G. W. Uku, stated, "I never heard of that statement. The Kenyan government has not issued any statement saying that any lesbians or political activists will be arrested when they come to the Conference.... It is our hope that all delegates feel comfortable." Mr. Uku stated that the suggestion of denial of visas at entry to lesbians and activists is equally baseless. "The Kenyan government is not in the position to apply different immigration regulations which are not in conformity with U.N. regulations." Mr. Uku said he was not aware of the Heritage Foundation report at the time *GCN* contacted his office.

Maya Luna, a press spokesperson for the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Planning Committee, echoed Mr. Uku's statements and said, "There is no problem with gay people coming to the Conference."

When asked about the climate in Kenya regarding gay men and lesbians, Mr. Uku noted, "In Kenya, questions of gays or sexual deviation is not a matter of public discussion. Every country has its own issues of national importance, and Kenya must be looked at in its own cultural context." Mr. Uku observed that, "In Kenya and in America, just like any other country, we have laws of indecency. If I make indecent exposure in Washington or in Kenya I may be arrested. .... If that is what they [lesbians] plan, they have a problem." Rose Ngayuny of the Kenyan Consulate in New York City noted that homosexuality is "not tolerated whatsoever" in Kenya, and that it is simply "not recognized." She reiterated, however, that the government would not interfere with Conference attendees who may be gay.

The International Council of African Women (ICAW), a Black women's organization based in D.C., will present a plan of action to the Conference which will include a plank about lesbians. The plank is the direct by-product of a process of organizing and consciousness-raising conducted by Black lesbians to convince predominantly straight Black feminist groups like ICAW of the importance of addressing homophobia as a human rights issue. The plank both affirms the validity of lesbian participation in the Conference, and calls for the recognition of the struggle of lesbians for freedom as an integral part of the larger feminist movement.

AIDS Funds

Continued from page 1

Given the increase in cases, Johnson was asked if the relatively small increase from $1.5 million last year is adequate. "We are doing what we can within the limited context of the state," he replied. He added that more support and stronger coordinated effort is needed from the federal level.

Johnson said the proposed $1.63 million is a lump sum and has not been broken down further. He did, however, list his priorities as follows:

- Developing a comprehensive plan for home and hospice care
- Ensuring that persons eligible for Medicaid receive all entitled benefits
- Hiring a statewide AIDS coordinator
- Identifying and training mental health professionals to work with patients and families
- Developing education programs for risk groups, health care providers and the public
- Continuing research
- Funding the state AIDS information line
- Studying the possibility of establishing an AIDS ward at one of the state's public health hospitals.

Johnson told the audience he expects a new statewide AIDS coordinator will be hired soon. The coordinator will "manage the state AIDS programs, facilitate the Governor's Commission [on AIDS], act as a liaison between groups and develop new programs." AIDS activists were surprised and angered when an acting coordinator, Robert Carwell, was appointed in March by state epidemiologist George Grady, M.D., without consultation with the community. However, the latest search has been widened to a more open process.

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Interview: Rosemary Curb,

Nuns and Lesbians: Autonomy

***Lesbian Nuns* co-editor, Rosemary Curb**

By Patricia A. Gozemba

Rosemary Curb is co-editor with Nancy Manahan of *Lesbian Nuns*. On April 4, she and two other contributors to the book, Elizabeth Malloy and Helen Horrigan, appeared at New Words bookstore in Cambridge. Curb is an associate professor of English and director of Women's Studies at Rollins College.

Patricia A. Gozemba is president of Nun Anon, a group recently established for all those women who still have not recovered from the fact that they did not become nuns and who, now with the publication of this book, are nearly apoplectic.

PG: *Why do you think your appearance on the T.V. program, "People Are Talking," was cancelled in Boston?*

RC: Well, all I know is what I read in the newspapers. If I can trust the Boston *Globe*, it was because the station received letters, particularly one from Father Peter Conley, and petitions protesting our appearance, protesting the book. What's curious to me is that I can only assume that none of those who protested our appearance have read the book. Maybe not even seen it. Their protests preceded the book's arrival in Boston.

PG: *Do you recognize that kind of group behavior?*

RC: Yes, it strikes me as a version of Holy Obedience from the convent days where people are not supposed to think for themselves. When you follow authority, you are always right, or so they think.

PG: *It's interesting that under the guise of protecting 118,000 nuns in this country, [Father Conley] steps forward and protects his own power.*

RC: Exactly. His power over them.

PG: *Do you want to make a distinction between the play* Sister Mary Ignatius *and a book like yours?*

RC: I was offended by *Sister Mary Ignatius*, not so much because it was anti-Catholic as because it was anti-woman. The nun figure in the play becomes a sort of homicidal maniac, using the Church for her own sort of vicious plan to destroy those who have submitted themselves to her power. Clearly it is a comic portrayal of exploitation, but it is not the nuns in the Church who are doing the exploiting.

PG: *In the Boston feminist community there are many very powerful and articulate sisters; none of them spoke out against your book.*

RC: Why would they? All the nuns I've met think that the book is great. It's the priests who somehow feel threatened. I think it's the same old thing: men being threatened by independent women.

PG: *Do you think it might be that women in religious life are now getting attention, and it has nothing to do with men, and that is irritating to the church fathers?*

RC: Exactly. It has nothing to do with men.

PG: *It thus makes ludicrous the position of Father Conley stepping in and trying to establish his presence.*

RC: That strikes me as so curious that this Rev. Peter Conley must step in and defend the poor sisters. He is going to be the knight in shining armor riding his white horse to their defense against women like me. In reality, lesbians who have never been nuns and nuns who have never been lesbians have a lot more in common with each other as women who are autonomous and free of male coercion than they do with any men whether those men are celibate, religious, heterosexual, or homosexual.

PG: *One of the readers last night at New Words bookstore said that she has felt powerless since she left the convent. How do you respond to that? Has that been a common experience on the part of women in the book?*

RC: One thing that women in religious communities are aware of is the power of women and the ability and intelligence of women to administer schools and hospitals, to take charge of large institutions. Many women leave religious communities, go out into the world and discover women are totally devalued and trivialized and assumed to be mindless. It is quite a blow. Autonomous communities of women, whether we are talking about religious communities or lesbian communities, actually are quite powerful — and because of this they threaten patriarchal arrogance. What lesbian communities and communities of nuns prove is that women can get along just fine without men and that is the big sin.

PG: *Can you develop some of the similarities that you see between those two communities: lesbians and the community of sisters?*

RC: The primary similarity that I mention in the introduction to *Lesbian Nuns* is the invisibility of the two groups. Nuns and lesbians tend to pass unnoticed in our culture because they are oblivious to male attention. The one thing that is unforgiveable in patriarchy is not to pay attention to men. They can't stand it; men would prefer to be hated than to be ignored. Both nuns and lesbians ignore men; men are irrelevant to them. The lesbian feminist communities today, especially those that have a sort of passionate moral commitment to helping women, can learn much from the autonomous structure and strategies of religious communities. Many leaders of the contemporary lesbian movement, like Jeanne Cordova, Jean O'Leary, and Ginny Apuzzo, have come out of convents, and much of what we learned about discipline and care and concern for our sisters comes from our experience of religious life.

PG: *Why is it that so many leaders of the gay and lesbian movements or other radical social movements are former or present nuns?*

RC: Anyone who would choose to enter the convent is obviously someone who is intensely committed to something and willing to give her whole life to a cause and to helping people, as well as to growing in a really deep sense of spirituality and using that inner core of spirituality to focus her own attentions on social justice issues. There is something facilitative about gathering up all the forces and all the energy that are part of our psyche through the discipline we have in religious life. It is no wonder that women who have been in religious communities continue to have that same passionate intensity, discipline, focus and involvement when it comes to other moral issues, like the nuclear freeze, U.S. imperialism in Central America, socia justice for migrant workers, and boycotting U.S. industrie which exploit workers.

PG: *Your co-editor Nancy Manahan describes sitting in room with many people concerned about social issues realizing that she was the only nun there and concludin that she could really be doing what she wanted to do ou side of the convent.*

RC: Nancy has often made the point that she discovere that she could be a good person and not be a nun, wherea there had been sort of an assumption that if you are a goo person you do the best thing that you can possibly do wit your life — and that is to become a nun.

PG: *Do you think that in some of the more radical orders like Maryknoll to which Nancy belonged, there are likely t be more lesbians?*

RC: That is a possible speculation. It's true we have man contributors from Maryknoll.

PG: *Do you suppose we owe it all to those little Marykno magazines that circulated around the country so prevalentl in the '50s and were in all of our bathrooms along wit* Reader's Digest*?*

RC: They sure turned us on, I know that.

PG: *In the introduction to the book, Sister Sarah says tha "the book will be a catalyst. That all hell will break loose an it will cause great controversy in some communities." Wha do you think about that?*

RC: She ought to know. She's a nun. She's very attrac tive, too, but that of course is irrelevant.

PG: *Irrelvant to what? In the introduction, you talk abou yourself and the nuns who are represented in the book a "more articulate and courageous" than many sisters. Wha did it take for women to come forward and tell thes stories?*

RC: It took two things in order to write a story for the book not only to be a lesbian and a nun, but also the courage t tell people about it and the ability to articulate the ex perience in words. The whole point of the book is the sub title "Breaking Silence." What we are doing is transformin that silence — the taboo that says that we don't exist, th we have no words, no language for what we felt or what w did — into claiming language that says what we did.

One of the experiences that is recounted frequen describes sexual encounters with another sister that too place in total silence. You know if you never speak abo what you did it is almost as if it doesn't exist. This can mak you feel just a little bit crazy. Some of the stories in the boo talk about that sense of craziness. When the writer wou confront her lover with what they had done, often the love would say, "I don't want to talk about it."

PG: *As you speak of that silence, what strikes me are th experiences in the book that are retold by the women of co or in particular. I think about the manifold layers of silenc that are there for them. Were there any special concer you had as you approached those particular stories?*

RC:: I was delighted that we had stories submitted to u from women of color, because the population of Catholic

co-editor of Lesbian Nuns
, Community...and Invisibility

and nuns in the United States is primarily white and probably primarily Irish. So there aren't that many women of color in religious communities. Marie Dennis, for example, had the experience of being the first Black to enter her community. The woman to whom we assigned the pseudonym Sr. Esperanza Fuerte had the experience of being a woman of color, of being born outside of the United States and entering a cloistered community which was very small. When she recognized her lesbianism, she also recognized that she had been exploited and silenced as a woman of color as well. In coming out about feminist issues, lesbian issues in her community, she has simultaneously come out on issues that are the special concerns of women of color. She is a wonderful political activist in the large city where she lives.

PG: *Most of the contributors to the book are working class. Did you try to assure that issues of class would be reflected in the book?*

RC: Yes, I was especially concerned to insure that working-class issues were included in the book. We do have many stories that discuss what it was like to be a working-class sister; I think particularly of the interview with Kevyn Lutton. Actually, my own background is probably more privileged than that of almost anybody else in the book. Nancy would probably identify herself as middle-class. I would probably identify my family as upper middle-class.

PG: *Do you think your and Nancy's class backgrounds had anything to do with your taking the initiative to get the book going? Is it another indicator of white, middle-class women being essentially the ones having access to publishing?*

RC: I think you're right, of course. Nancy and I had access to publishing probably because we come from a privileged class, but I think we were both sensitive to issues of race, class, and culture because we have been working on raising our consciousness on these issues for many years through women's studies.

PG: *Do you hope that this book will be used as a text in women's studies classes?*

RC: Of course. I intend to use it in a course that I've designed called "Women's Lives," which will treat biography, autobiography, journals, letters — all the ways in which we tell our lives to each other. Others books that I considered as models for ours that I would also use as texts are *Nice Jewish Girls*, *Lesbian Path*, and *The Coming Out Stories*. All of these are breakthrough books. *Lesbian Nuns* is a pioneering effort dealing with the double marginality of lesbians and nuns.

PG: *Were you trying to guard against sensationalism and the charge that has been raised already of exploitation?*

RC: We were neither seeking nor avoiding sensationalism. One thing we said to contributors before they even wrote their stories was that we would edit for style and length and would make no judgments about anything they told us about their lives. We maintained that position throughout. I'm not saying that I applaud or approve of everything that everybody says they did, but I am in favor of freedom of choice in all areas of women's lives.

PG: *What kind of solace can you offer nuns like Sr. Eileen Brady who, [along with her whole religious community] was attacked by the* Manchester Union Leader *after the publication of her story in* Lesbian Nuns*? Do you think that she and others were prepared for what might happen?*

RC: I don't know how you can get prepared for that. Frankly, neither Nancy nor I anticipated the popularity of this book. I had no thoughts when we were editing it that we were coming up with a bestseller. I thought that we were editing it for the women's community, a collection of stories which would be a contribution to women's studies, and I do believe that is a value of the book. I had no idea that every bookstore in the country was going to carry it and sell out in the first couple of weeks of publication.

PG: *Any ironies in all of this?*

RC: Yes, people like Father Conley talking about how we're in this for the money. It's really funny when you think of how the church hierarchy lives — like princes in their royal robes and mansions feeding off the poor. The reality is that Nancy Manahan and I slept in sleeping bags in homes we visited while working on the book. I have continued to maintain almost a vow of poverty. I believe the rule of St. Augustine that it is better to need less than to have more. It's been the rule of my life, my whole life. It's part of my spirituality and my morality to live as lightly as possible upon the earth.

PG: *What has been the reaction to* Lesbian Nuns *at the college where you teach?*

RC: Very positive. The president of the college announced the book — to the board of trustees, the alumnae association, and to the community at large — saying that Rollins College is going to be in the news again, and he's pleased when Rollins is in the news. Now, I can't say that the parents of every single student at Rollins College are going to be equally thrilled about the book, but it will truly be a test of tolerance.

PG: *Have other women written to you and talked about your work as being inspirational, giving them the courage to come out?*

RC: One of the women who interviewed me in Philadelphia said that she thought it would make it easier for lesbians attending rabbinical college to come out, and so we talked about lesbian rabbis as a possible book.

PG: *How is this making you feel about the lesbian community?*

RC: I may be a trifle chauvinistic on the topic of lesbianism, but there was a time when we wanted the straight world to recognize that we were "just folks" like everybody else; we were just ordinary, normal people. Now I think I can say that lesbians are superior. I think lesbians are extraordinary. A lesbian mother is a better mother precisely because she is a lesbian, because she is a woman who has had to struggle against particular kinds of opposition. The fact that she can declare herself a lesbian takes a great deal of courage in our homophobic society. She's also a woman who has survived on her own without a man. I think lesbians are probably more intelligent, talented, and stronger than the general population.

PG: *What other barriers are there to be broken? Do we need a book about lesbian vice presidents of banks, lesbian college presidents?*

Photos by Marilyn Humphries

Interviewer Pat Gozemba (impersonating a nun)

RC: Sure, why not? We need all those books. Anyone who fears a book with the title *Lesbian Nuns* and wants to suppress it is obviously afraid of the power of language, education, and enlightenment. They want somehow to keep people in ignorance. They want somehow to protect their fragile hold on power.

PG: *Maybe the most powerful thing women can be taught to do is tell their stories.*

RC: Exactly. It's the whole basis of consciousness raising. The more we tell our stories, the more powerful we are. That's what I've been writing in books that I've been autographing, "Let's keep telling each other our stories." Every story. There is no woman who does not have a story to tell.

PG: *Do you think* Lesbian Nuns *will be made into a movie?*

RC: I have been approached by a Hollywood producer. So it's not at all inconceivable that the book would be made into a movie. Possibly a documentary or simply taking three to five stories and weaving the lives of those women together in parallel sections.

PG: *What about a daytime T.V. series?*

RC: Sure, why not? College students glued to their T.V.s, people rushing home to check out the latest developments in the lives of lesbian nuns.

PG: *Do you ever worry about the Pope ordering the Swiss Guard to come after you? Do you think they're bugging this interview?*

RC: They're probably nearby, taking pictures of Marilyn Humphries taking pictures.

PG: *Did any of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence try to get published in your book?*

RC: No, they didn't.

PG: *What's your next book going to be about?*

RC: I'd like to tell my own story in book length, because I had an involvement with the Catholic Church as a child that went beyond the fact that I was an ex-nun. My father worked for Bishop Sheil in Chicago, and I was definitely in on the ground floor of the civil wars that went on in the Archdiocese of Chicago among the hierarchy. Bishop Sheil was a wonderful man; he was the founder and organizer of the Catholic Youth Organization. My father was the manager of the radio station which he started, a Catholic radio station in Chicago, WFJL. When Bishop Sheil spoke out against Joe McCarthy's anti-communist witchhunt, he suddenly lost all of his support. I saw first hand as a child growing up the power of the church hierarchy over people. I know all about exploitation of the powerless by the powerful.

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Of-the-Family Sacto-Love

By William Cottrell

Greg lives on 51st Street, Sacramento with his half-brother, age 11, his real-dad, and his real-mom, age 37. Greg loves the world.

Well, he looks like he loves the world, though he hasn't told me in words. His vocabulary is different from mine. I'm 33 and have lived in the major cities of the U.S. and have traveled the southern half of the country extensively. He is 2½ years old and Sacramento-bound. I am a free person traveling the world for self-study and location of homeland.

I have learned many meanings for the word love, and my own meaning is very different from the meanings held by the people on 51st Street, Sacramento. Through my eyes, in my mind, Greg's possible definition is more like mine than like his blood family's, but I am not a Sacto person, nor am I of-the-family, and therefore have no voice here.

I am a person with no secret club, nor am I affiliated with any profession per se. I am one person, conscious, who pursues communications despite much resistance — who has, until this Sacto experience, felt reason to pursue realization of human family beyond blood, beyond regional or other differences. Born Catholic in New Jersey, I learned the word love meant mother-father rulership over me and my activities seen. I did not understand much of what mother-father had to tell me about this society when I was Greg's age and older.

Greg is my friend. At least until yesterday we were allowed. When we see each other he yells my name, in his language, and calls me into his playroom or toward his activity outside. And when he has been outside near my little house, he has called me in there too: exploring, naming things, naming events he knows the names of, and encouraging me to repeat these words. Sometimes he demands me to repeat the words he is studying. Until yesterday I believe we were studying our collective language, wording his and my living world.

When David, my best friend, and I moved into this house next door to Greg and his blood-family, Greg's mother welcomed us right from the beginning. She helped us secure the place with the landlord. She brought us food, gave us an old sofa she did not want, and her 11-year-old lent us his old TV for $1 a month.

We felt welcomed and happy to discover friendly people in this cold, oppressive capital city where the streets are always a mess and the sound of civil war is all around us.

This mother is angry. The xeroxed gun poster, warning thieves of certain death upon entry to her home, taped to the BB-pelleted window next to her doorway, frightened and alerted me that first day here. I felt a click inside me, juxtaposing her smiling, high-voiced friendliness and the gun barrel pointed at my chest. I did not choose to ignore either side of her, or deny involvement, though I knew, certainly, my turn to be the bad guy, the one hated for no reason but blame and old pain, would come if I allowed any measure of over-time contact. This was my own choice. No one asked me to open my door, my heart, or give my time. I fore-gave of my own volition.

Over the next several months I listened with her. I learned of her travels, her husbands come and gone, her father conflict unresolved. But most of all, I heard her deep wish for love and trust. I believe this is all of us, yearning. From my point of view, she does not know friendship, love, or any small measure of personal security, in this world or within herself. My listening, now, comes too late for hearing herself.

Because I have lived with many

Continued on page 11

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Of-the-Family Sacto-Love

Continued from page 10

groups of people around the country, and have known over 50 different mothers and their children intimately, and have watched many friendships begin, grow, and either blow up or blossom, I recognize communication patterns that let-love or deny-love. I see early on the probability of blow-ups or bloomers, and feel moved to pursue love no matter for the probability of resentment and blame toward me. I have believed the experience of coming close to love important enough to risk my own feelings, especially when children are so clutched.

Yesterday I met Greg's mother on the street. Greg was running about barefoot and happy. Mom cried the usual litany of dishes, dinner, and burn-out, no time for everything important, and clearly needed time away from Greg. Dad would be home in about two hours and would be pissed if dinner wasn't ready. I offered to watch Greg.

Greg and I went to the corner where David was cleaning up the curbs near our friend Leo's house. He was sweeping and shoveling the brush and storm remains into piles.

2½-year-old Greg, saw the tub full of water and pulled his wet clothes off, and got in with my lover. Neither David nor I thought anything weird about this, not really.

Well, I let myself be open to this. I allowed us to become as involved as she would allow. I let the children in and out of my little house as they chose, and gave to them as they would accept. And the younger ones are remarkably alive by comparison to the 11- and 14-year-olds. Far more willing to be close and have fun, explore without fear, violence, and so many self-defeating patterns; far more willing to listen to another person's view of what-is and consider another person's world.

Here in Sacto, the 14-year-olds I've known are absolutely certain Sacto is the beginning and the end of the world. No matter for their real paranoia for night walks on their own street, factual accounts of in-school beatings, knife fights, and killings. Listening daily over several months to one boy in this neighborhood tells me he has never known resolve and satisfaction in any conflict with anyone in his 14 years. At 14, life is decidedly a waste, something to put up with until death, though sleep is better than waking, and TV better than most anything at all.

Greg loved using the tools. We laughed together, watching and hearing the dirt collect into the wide flat shovel. I held the weight of the tool from the end of the long handle; Greg directed the angle and drive down close to the blade. He yelled directions when I wasn't doing it right. He had a very definite experiment going on here, and I was his helper.

When the traffic increased and we were more in the way of the project David had in mind, we returned to the yard in front of our little house, and Greg discovered the hose and faucet. "On." "Off." The stream of water was wonderful to him. I saw his face light up. With a glass jar, he studied volume: "gone," "full." We had fun with the words and the action. We got a little wet and then we went into the house.

David had just come in, and since he gets pretty dirty by the end of his landscaping day, he filled the tub and got in. Well, Greg saw the tub full of water and pulled his wet clothes off, and got in too. Neither David nor I thought any-

Continued on page 12

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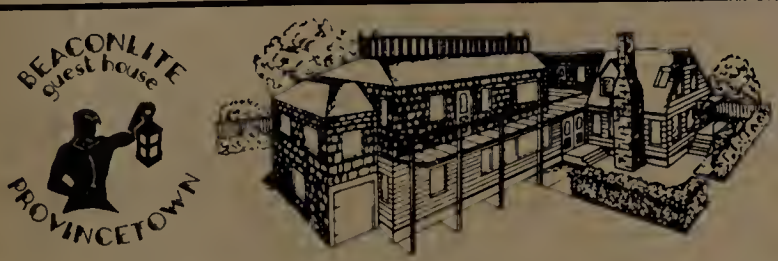

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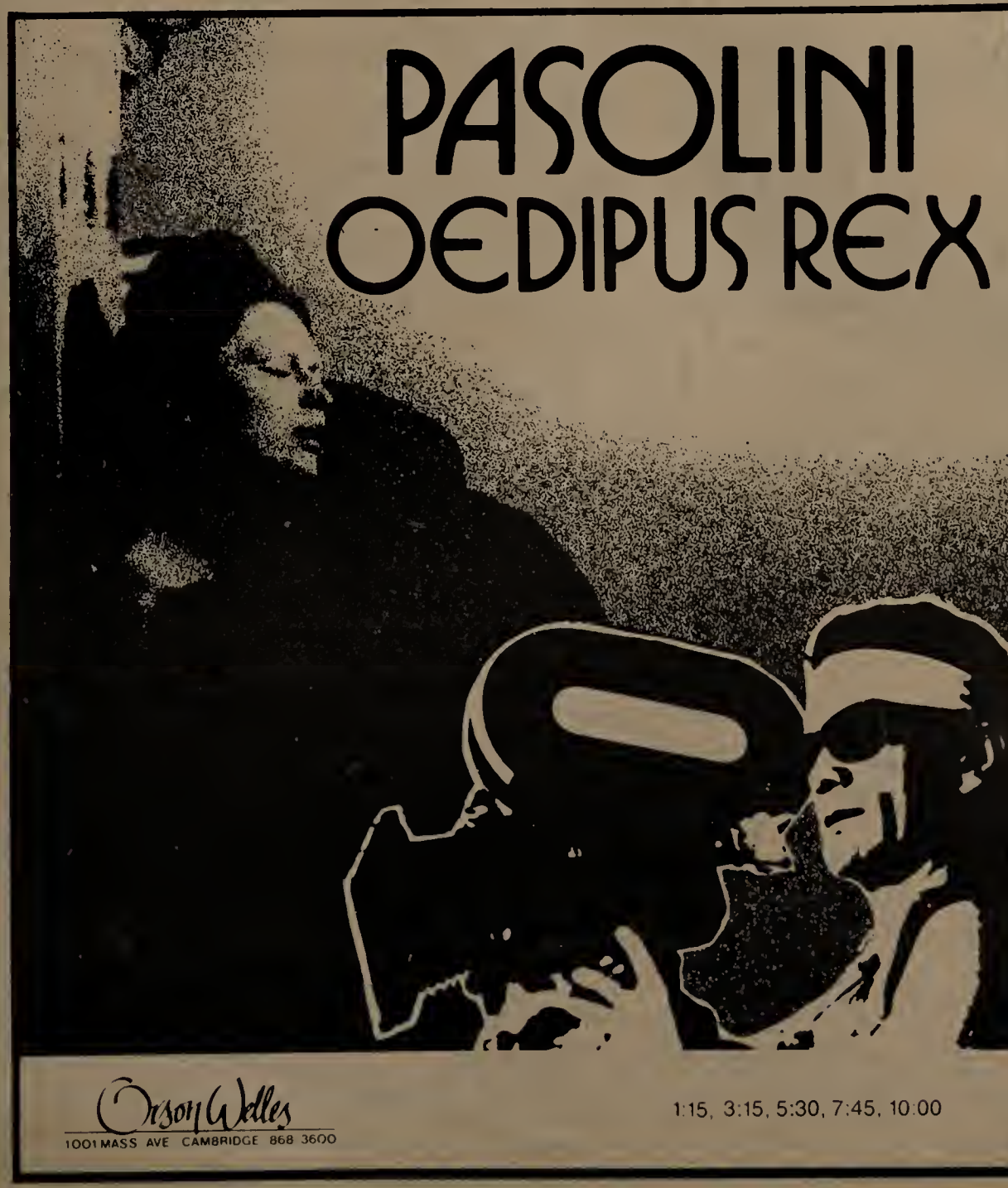

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Of-the-Family Sacto-Love

Continued from page 11

thing weird about this, not really. Greg was having fun. A plastic orange juice container was nearby, and he loved filling it, emptying it. "Full." "Gone."

No big deal. We enjoyed his joy. His round face full of delight. For this afternoon David and I enjoyed his simple pleasure in being alive.

David and I thought, well, as long as Mom and Dad don't come by this is okay, but if they knew they'd probably freak out. This situation, Greg in the tub playing, is not simple in the mind of mother-father. It's one thing we are openly gay, but much more at issue here is clannish parents, resentful, denying parents, who clutch children like their many other possessions, claiming absolute rule and domination. Bathing, like eating, is strictly controlled. Somehow, pregnancy and male-female living together gives authority over children that is sacred and beyond "outsider" discussion or question. Intimate sharing is unknown. We both decided, in the quick moment of Greg's stripping, fully conscious of ugly possibilities, to simply let the person Greg decide his own activity and direction.

Dad knocked on the front door. David, who had finished his bath and was dressed, answered and told Dad the boy was in the tub. Dad, who is welcome and accustomed to coming in, saw me standing in the bathroom right next to the tub from his place on the front porch. He decided not to come in, but said it was time for the boy to come home.

Yes, I was anxious. I did not want a blow-out, not in my mind or between us all. Greg reluctantly left the tub, though hearing that Daddy was home helped make drying and dressing quick, and we went back to his house. I told Dad the sequence of events and all appeared well. Dad even said, "That's okay, thanks."

The following day, yesterday, Greg's mother knocks on my door. Home from work at the quick gas, she is burned out, face ashen, shoulders slumped, and when I open the door she points to my solar plexus with sharp finger. "I've got to talk to you, William."

"Come in, come in, come in," and I lead her to my room.

She refused to sit, and stood in the doorway clutching her Pepsi and papers. "I'm tired from working all day, and the first thing home my husband hits me with *this*. I'm close to violence, William. Just tell me one thing, why did you give my son a bath yesterday? I give my own kid a bath when he's dirty, and I don't want anybody giving him a bath. Not anybody. I know he gets into everything, but I do my best. Now *why*?"

I see in this moment she is not interested in hearing anything from me; her question is rhetorical, prelude to the blow-out, obligatory to the drama. But I tell her what I have written here, just how this happened, calm, and as soon as I say, "...he got into the tub..." she yells, "*and you didn't stop him?!*" That was the last I was allowed to say.

Information, facts, reason, have nothing to do with this situation for her. The only reality Greg's mother knows here is her outrage, her fear, her own insecurity in the world. Her own experience with me means nothing. Her claims for Christian love, love of any variety, mean nothing now in the face of this horror unnamed. Suspicion is enough, her negatives in imagination, enough: Greg in the tub yesterday, beyond her domination, her watchful eye.

It's one thing we are openly gay, but more at issue here is parents who clutch children like their many other possessions.

She leaves, yelling, "That's it! That's final!" and all communications are ended. David and I are certainly on the shit list. Maybe a hit list. And the neighborhood, which is the world of this family, will certainly have a better story now to inflame their misery of loneliness, pain, and confusion.

Greg, his brother, and certainly the other neighborhood kids who have frequented our home and campfire circle out in the yard, are now tabooed from contact. Communications, such as they were, ended.

I no longer wonder how it is that Sacramento is this backward, violent, messy street place. This mother is Sacto-born. The neighbors primarily are locals. And these kids, the possessions, are forced into the very same social patterns these parents were force-fed: denial, avoidance, blame, and violence, in response to difference, conflict, and pain.

A pat package for survival in this society of poverty and getting-by mentality, where hopelessness is the given, and fear is unspoken. The language here is different.

Conference

Continued from page 1

work to bring services and support to Haitians with AIDS. The Haitian community has suffered discrimination in employment and housing because of AIDS panic.

A subject which is being discussed with increasing frequency is the effect the HTLV-III virus has on the central nervous system. Joseph Barbuto, M.D., a psychiatrist at Memorial Sloane-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, said that symptoms seen in people with AIDS, such as depression, headache, social withdrawal, delirium, disorientation and memory loss, may be organically based because the HTLV-III virus now appears to infect the brain cells.

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We are a group of women and men (organized at 2nd regional conf. on bisexuality) seeking proposals for submissions for an anthology on bisexuality. Send SASE to E. Malcohn, c/o BBWN, Box 1354, J.P. MA 02130 (41)

JAMES WHITE REVIEW

A gay men's literary quarterly publishes interviews Quentin Crisp Robert Patrick Poets Ian Young Jim Holmes Antler Steve Abbott Prose Richard Hall John Gilgun new voices subscribe $6 a year sample copy $2. PO Box 3356 Traffic Station, Mpls, MN 55403 Submissions welcome send SASE.

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

Nat'l. journal of woman-to-woman S/M. Diverse, feminist quarterly of S/M fact, fiction & photos. $11/yr. single issues $3. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. P.O. Box 23, Somerville, MA 02143. (44)

OFF OUR BACKS — celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism. We bring feminist national/international news, analysis and reviews each month. $11 year, 11 issues. ($15 for contributing subs); $20 institutional fee. Free sample! Write Off Our Backs, Dept. GCN, 1841 Columbia Rd, NW, Rm 212, Washington, D.C. 20009. (ex)

MATRICES: A Lesbian-Feminist Research Newsletter. $3/yr (3 issues). J. Zita, Managing Editor, Women's Studies, 492 Ford Hall, U.Minn., Mpls, MN 55455. (ex)

GUARDIAN: Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles, and International progressive movements. Special offer 4 issues FREE. Write Guardian Dept. GCN, 33 W 17th St., NY NY 10011. (ex)

WOMEN SURVIVORS' NEWSLETTER

For Crying Out Loud, newsletter by and for women survivors of child sexual abuse, announces publication of its 3rd issue. For info or subscription (4 issues for $5), or to submit letters. other writings or graphics, please write Survivors Newsletter Collective, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

JUST FRIENDS

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD

Gay & Lesbian Alliance--Community Group offers political/social activities. Meet/work with your neighbors. For info write GALA, PO Box 45211, Somerville, MA 02145. (c)

N.S.F.A.
NORTH SHORE FUN ANYONE?

We are seeking gay women and men for social group in N. Shore area. Informal, personal, w/o drugs or hvy. alcohol. Please respond with contact phone no. or address to N.S.F.A? PO Box 1083, Salem, MA 01970. (38)

SMITH COLLEGE ALUMNAE

Alumnae for Alternatives, an orgnzn of Smith Alumnae supporting our lifestyles and careers as well as lesbian and progressive politics, is developing. For more info: write Alums for Alts, Box 543 Northampton MA 01061.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you live in East Boston, Hyde Park, Revere, Chelsea, or Charlestown? Can you help pass the Mass. Gay Rights Bill? Call the BL/GPA at 720-6033. ( )

MOVERS

Julian Wright Moving Company
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Serving the Gay Community
with professionalism and respect.
Very careful furniture movers.
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Gay owned business
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From $18 / hr.
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• LIC. and INS.
236-1848

SPORTS

DYKE DIVERS

Lesbian scuba divers explore the under water world with fellow amazons this year. New members welcome. For more info call Susan 646-1992 or CM 437-9009 (41)

Women's softball team sks woman coach. Together nine years. Good team and spirit. S'ville league Div A. Call 646-1992 or 354-7457. (c)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

INTERIOR PLANTSCAPING

Boston Firm seeking reliable people to maintain indoor plantsfor our business clients. Full or P/T avail. sal neg. W/GD benefits, call 357-5255 ()

FUNDRAISER/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Non-profit organization that works with mothers in prison and their children needs full-time Fundraiser. Position requires: good fundraising skills, administrative abilities, written and oral communication skills, some community outreach tasks. $16,000 excel. benefits, AIM, 138 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02111 (42)

All volunteer women's counseling center is interviewing new members for rebuilding the center. MA preferred; experience, energy, and commitment required. Supervision. Send resume and letter of intent by 6/1/85 to WCRC, 1555 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, MA 02138 (43)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CLINICAL COORDINATOR

for small Boston human services agency. Commitment to alternative mental health and collective decision making. Supportive and challenging work environment. Salary and benefits. Resume by May 8th to Box 1250, Back Bay Annex, Boston 02117. Equal Opportunity Employer.

PART TIME ATTENDANT

Disabled lesbian seeks part time attendant. Weekend hours; willing to train in personal care. Located in JP now, but will be moving to downtown Boston in near future. $5.85/hr (no taxes). Call 524-3141 — let phone ring. (c)

GCN JOB OPENING

GCN is seeking applicants for the following positions:

DESIGN DIRECTOR:

Estab overall design of paper, oversee prod nght, design or assign covers, cntrsp artwrk/layout, monthly suppl graphics. Requires graphic design/art skills. Fam w/type specs, design/layout exp pref.

All positions require commitment to gay/lesbian liberation, feminism, social change, anti-racist politics, and collective decision-making. Sal $150/wk + 3 wks pd vac, complete health/life ins. Resumes to Gordon Gottlieb, GCN, 167 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02111. Lesbians/gay men of color particularly encouraged to apply. (c)

Housekeeper/maintenance person wanted for women-owned country inn in New Hampshire. Start July. Call the Highlands Inn at (603) 869-3978 (48)

Downtown Cafe seeks high school student or other for part-time work. Apply in person 12 La Grange St. Boston, MA between 2-6. (41)

SOCIAL CHANGE JOBS

COMMUNITY JOBS, a nonprofit newspaper, lists progressive jobs and internships nationwide that you can believe in! Jobs in women's rights, community organizing, the environment peace and more. Current listing $3.00. Community Jobs, Box 221, 1520 16th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20036. (x)

HAIRDRESSER ASSISTANT

Qualified person needed to assist, learn and grow in Camb. Hvd. Sq. salon. Call 876-5099 for appt. to interview. (42)

SERVICES

INTERIOR PAINTING & RENOVATION

First class workmanship, free estimates 723-3641 David evenings. (44)

THE GREAT ARRANGER

Planning a trip to Manhattan? From museums to discos; I can arrange all your entertainment quickly and inexpensively. Hours M-F 9am-7pm (212) 879-1140 (42)

GAY MEN'S THERAPY GROUP

Openings. Group focus is on intimacy, gay identity, relationships. Individual therapy also available. Sliding fee. Call Francis Giambrone 628-6988.

COUNSELING—PSYCHOTHERAPY

For individuals or couples, long or short term. Reasonable rates, sliding scale. John Graves, 266-2069. Formerly 6 years with HCHS. (35)

FOREX TRAVEL
Phone 482-2900
76 Arlington St.
at Boston Park Plaza

FOR SALE

FOR SALE — A MOVING EXPERIENCE

Help! I have some excellent (& not so excellent, but cheap) furniture (i.e. rugs, chairs, shelves, etc.) to sell before moving. Looking for something special? Call 437-9155 after 6:00 p.m. and maybe I'll have it. (42)

GAY BOOKS NEEDED!!

If you've got some gay paperbacks you won't need anymore, please donate them to GCN's Prisoner Project to be sent out to lesbians and gay men behind bars. We're at 167 Tremont St., Boston MA 02111. Thanks!

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

•**DEADLINE:** Tuesday, noon.
All ads are prepaid.
No phone ads accepted.

NAME _____

STREET _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

Use 1 unit for each letter, punctuation mark or space between words.
Print clearly. Ads will be returned if we can't read them.

Category: _____

Head Lines _____ Head Lines

Bold Headlines:	Business	____ x 2.00	=	_____
	Non-Business	____ x 1.00	=	_____
1st 4 Lines or part thereof:	Business	7.00	=	_____
	Non-Business	5.00	=	_____
Additional Lines or part thereof:	Business	____ x .75	=	_____
	Non-Business	____ x .50	=	_____
		TOTAL	=	_____

SPECIAL RATES FOR NON-PROFIT GAY ORGANIZATIONS

Display (Boxed) Classifieds: Col. inches or part thereof: ____ x 12.00	=	_____
TOTAL for 1 Week (Add)	=	_____
Number of Weeks (Multiply)	=	_____
SUBTOTAL	=	_____
DISCOUNTS: for 10-20 consecutive weeks 10%	=	_____
for 21-30 consec. wks. 15%	=	_____
for 31 + consec. wks. 20%	=	_____
TOTAL FOR AD COPY	=	_____
☐ Pick-up Box: for 6 wks 2.00	=	_____
☐ Forwarding Bx: 6wks. 5.00	=	_____
☐ Tearshts: #wks____x1.00	=	_____
TOTAL	=	_____

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ALL CLASSIFIEDS.
Return this form and payment to *GCN* Classifieds, 167 Tremont St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

Classifieds

ROOMMATES

ROOMMATES

36 yr. old LF wants to share house or apt. in J.P., Brkine or Newton with one or more people (gay-non gay, mixed m/f or all women). Friendly, indep, work in hi-tech, but live low-tech. Can pay $300 including ht. Please call Lynn at 524-8665 or (work: 603-881-2434). I've got no pets nor cigarettes. (42)

Brookline: 2 LF 28+30 seek roommate to share large beautiful 3 bdr. $287 includes heat. Pets ok. Call 277-2673. (42)

3L looking for a fourth to join us in our beautiful newly renovated 4 br. apt. with river view in Waltham. Have 3 cats, 1 dog. Smoker & Vegetarian. $187.50 plus utilities. Call 894-8363. ()

ROOMMATE — HYDE PARK PROF

Looking to share large, sunny 7 room newly recond. apt. incl. lots of nat'l wood, 2 brdrms, sun por., pantry, mod kitchen & bath, acre lot with garden space and parking. Over 30 & car & references. $275. month all utilities Alan (D) 437-4895 (N) 361-7155 ()

LF 30's seeks same to share sunny 4 room apt. Oak Square Brighton $262 50+ sec. deposit required. No booze, drugs, cigs. Call 782-7732 (43)

GWM mature resp. seeks same to share 6 rm twnhse Beacon Hill. I am prof. own bus. I need someone to share appreciate and contribute in a very nice inexpensive living situation. Call 367-3298. Not a sex ad. (42)

ROOMEZE
·LESBIAN/GAY·
·FEMINIST·
Roommate Matching Service
$15 fee
Confidentiality Assured
CALL 641·3095
M-F 9·6/Sat 12·5

HOUSEMATES

FUN FEMINIST HOUSEHOLD

Mixed, gay/straight/dyke/black/white cooperative in South End seeks two housemates. Close to T. Spacious. Reasonable rent. Call 257-0757. (41)

HOUSING SOUGHT

LF 22+cat grad/Brandeis vegetarian, quiet seek coop or semi-coop apt. Cannot pay more than $250. May 31. Dora 891-5997 (42)

NEED A ROOMMATE?

GM 31 seeks place in South End by 6/1 w/other GM's or LF's. $300+util. Quiet, sem-veg, non-smoker, left/fem. politics. Call Bill 424-6384 (have answering machine) (42)

HOUSE OR APT WANTED

Disabled LF, 30, skng living arrangements. Prefer mixed gender, gay or not gay. Can't live with smokers. Pets & children great. House must be wheelchair accessible or able to make accessible. 524-3141, let phone ring. Jamaica Plain preferred. (c)

2 GM prof. and cat seek 3rd in owners 3 bdrm apt. in 3 decker at Ashmont T in Dorchester. Spacious with nice detail. Indiv. must be very resp., clean & non-smoker. No drugs. $290 includes all 282-6232. ( )

ROOMMATES

36 yr. old LF wants to share house or apt. in J.P., Brkine or Newton with one or more people (gay-non gay, mixed m/f or all women). Friendly, indep, work in hi-tech, but live low-tech. Can pay $300 including ht. Please call Lynn at 524-8655 or (work: 603-881-2434). I've got no pets nor cigarettes. (42)

GCN F staff member looking for an apt. or house to share with 1 or 2 others, M or F, pref. 30+ but let's talk. Camb./Som.(would consider JP). Under $200/mo. Ask for Pam at 426-4469. (c)

DEAR ADVERTISER

If race is not a crucial issue for you, why put it in your ad? It is not a required formula; GWM GWF are not necessary. GM or GF would do as well.

SUBLETS

SUBLET STUDIO 6/1-8/1 or 8/31

Brighton-Hdwd floors, pkg., near T, good security $325 furnished or not as is decided-no pets 617-783-1830 ()

DAVIS SQUARE

Sublet 1 br in 3 br apt. with 2 gw's June-Spet. with option for entire apt in Spetember. Bedroom lge. sunny with porch-good for a couple. Near T. Call 776-4277 eves and weekends. ()

Sublet Beautiful Rooms

LF 30+ for 2 beautiful, sunny furnished rooms in lovely old house, lg. yard, fireplace, piano. Convenient to Boston & Camb. Warm, responsible independent household. Flexible occupancy, summer or 16 months or more. $250+. No smoking or drugs Irene 965-0648 (39)

APARTMENTS

APT. FOR RENT

2 bdrm, hdwd floors, good cond., pets ok, priv. parking 2 cars, near T, LF owner occupied, no realtor fee, gas heat, $425+ util, 324-6822 Malden (40)

FURNISHED ROOMS

FURNISHED ROOMS

Boston S.E. private room in lovely triplex. References, security deposit, kitchen privileges $300/mo 424-1863. Non-smoker (42)

Bri— Comm & Hvd Aves on T— Furn rms from 75/wk some w/priv bath. 2 mos min stay w/4wks up front. Job & prior landlord refs reqd. 277-6622.

RESORTS

GREENHOPE FARM

Unique all-woman country space. Beautiful post and beam farmhouse, cozy and clean. Gourmet veg. cooking, home-made breads, cheese and yogurt. Baby horse, goats and ducklings. From skiing to skinny dipping, we're open year round. 3½ hrs. from Boston. (802) 533-7772

BRINLEY VICTORIAN INN

Explore Newport but let us harbor you with warm + friendly service, romantic Victorian decor, fresh flowers, cont. brkft. (401)849-7645 (13/1)

A SPRING TIME FANCY

A special place for friends and lovers. Secluded setting on 100 acres at the end of a country lane. Beautiful mountain views. Charming guest rooms. Gracious common areas. Crackling fires at night, peace and quiet always. Come see what you've been missing. The Highlands Inn, Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. Grace & Judi, Innkeepers. (44)

GABRIEL'S

Guest rooms and apartments. Centrally located. Hot tub, garden patio, cable tv, coffee. 104 Bradford St. Provincetown, MA 02657. Reservations: (617) 487-3232. Open year round.

CHECK'ER OUT AT THE CHECK'ER INN

Dbl rms, coffee by fireside, pkg, apts also avail, 1 blk bay, open year round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St, P'town, MA 02657

VERMONT GUESTHOUSE

Bed + Cont Bkfst for Lesbians and Gay Men in a country village house 2 hrs fr Bos. Yr-round. Nr lakes, hikes, skiing. Dave + Mike (802)348-7840.

GREENHOPE FARM

Unique all-woman country space. Beautiful post and beam farmhouse, cozy and clean. Gourmet veg. cooking, home-made breads, cheese and yogurt. Baby horse, goats and ducklings. From skiing to skinny dipping, we're open year round. 3½ hrs. from Boston. (802) 533-7772

BED & BREAKFAST IN N.Y.

Enjoy a decadent weekend in a charming, lesbian owned, N.Y. brownstone — only 1 subway stop from Manhattan. Be pampered by having breakfast served in bed, and sipping a complimentary bottle of champagne on arrival. For more information, call (718)625-2653, THE RADCLIFFE HALL. (13/36)

SUMMER RENTALS

NO. TRURO

Lesbian wanted to rent two room shack. Available June-October, use weekends or full time $1000 phone 661-2064 or 497-5999 leave message. (42)

PROVINCETOWN WATERFRONT APARTMENTS

Furn. apts. in quiet West End—ideal for lovers—by week, month, now through June and after Labor Day. Telephone: (617) 487-2771 or 262-7396 rates: from $360/wk w/discounts. Ref. required. (47)

WOMEN'S LAKESHORE PRIVACY IN CENTRAL MAINE

Secluded seductive cabin — 3 bedrooms stone fireplace, loons at night. June-Sept, S. Roberts No. 6EE 758 Pelham Pkwy, S Bronx, NY 10462 (212) 823-6831 (45)

YORK HARBOR MAINE HOUSE

3br, 2 baths, 10 min. to Ogunquit 1½ hrs. to Boston. Secluded, all appliances; two blocks to beach and harbor. $450/wk. 2 wk min. (207) 363-4356 or (413) 592-2625. (42)

ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COALITION FOR LESBIAN/GAY

Concerns. 4th national gathering June 25-27, Ames, Iowa. For membership, information or registration: UCCLGC, 18 N. College St, Athens, OH 45701. (38)

N AMER MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOC

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send $1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD, PO Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (v. 13, no.22)

MARCHING BAND

For lesbian/gay pride practises each Tues 7:30pm YWCA rm 707, 140 Clarendon St Bos. Call Wayne 726-3161(day) Mary Helen 875-4194, Greg 236-1641. (37)

WOMEN'S BARTER NETWORK

Short on cash, but have lots you'd like to trade for your needs? Women's Barter Network is a non-profit, nationwide barter referral system for women and women's organizations/businesses. Send SASE for details to: Women's Barter Network, Box 712, Wabash, Indiana 46992. (62)

HETEROSEXISM, RACISM

Sexism, anti-Semitism, multicultural issues. Workshops by national consultants for your organization (municipal, professional, political, educational) or business. Contact Equity Institute in Amherst, MA at (413)256-6902. Co-directors Carole Lannigan Johnson, J.D., and Joan Lester, Ed.D. (?)

Lobbying and fighting legally for realistic approaches to social interaction-especially for same-sex orietned youth who cannot relate easily or safely to their peers as heterosexual youth can. Info+sample bulletin $2.00-Annual Membership/Subscription $20.00. Reality Inc. P.O. Box 73 Paramus, NJ 07653-0073.

D.O.B.

Suppt orgnztn for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb, Old Bap Chr. Raps evry Tues, Thurs 8pm. Special raps for 35+; parents; yngr wmn; baby bmrs; singles; coming-out; issues forum. All 8pm. Mnthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. ()

LESBIANS

Are you Lesbian, Bisexual or unsure?
Looking for a group to go to?
Come join us at BAGLY.

Call Tony, 497-8282. (13/32)

HAD ENOUGH religious homophobia?

WE ARE
Gay And Lesbian Atheists
Write to GALA for information and a free copy of the *GALA REVIEW*, P.O. Box 14142, San Francisco, CA 94114

GAY LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities include religious observances, discussions, potluck dinners, folk dancing, etc. For events, check *GCN* Calendar Call (617) 782-8894 or write PO Box 11 Camb, MA 02238.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Gay is OK! SDA Kinship International, Inc., since 1976, is a support group of several hundred gay/lesbian Adventists, present and former, in local chapters nationwide. Ask for brochure. Box 1233-L, Los Angeles, CA 90078. 213-876-2076. (49)

NASHUA AREA GAYS meet on Mondays at 8:00 pm. For info write Nashua Area Gays, PO Box 885, Nashua, NH 03060. ()

GCN SPECIALS

Gay Community News needs help on Friday nights mailing the paper to our subscribers. Come and help: it's easy, it's fun, it's a good way to meet people, and it's a good way to get involved with your community's paper. Just come anytime after 6PM to 167 Tremont Street, 5th floor (between the Bylston and Park Street "T" stops). If the door is locked, buzz us on the *GCN* intercom located outside the door. If you have any questions, call Marcos at 426-4469. (c)

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*).

I'm a 31 yr old dyke (butch) looking fo. love and friendship, esp. interested "femmes' but will gladly write anyone. who writes me. I'd enjoy some sexy, hot letters from some sexy hot young ladies who enjoy turning on an old dyke with a tongue always ready for action. I'm not allowed to write other prisoners. Robyn Shawnee JACKSON, Box A, 600728A, Oakdale IA 52319.

30 yr old gay woman interested in finding mature gay female penpals. Pictures most welcome (will reciprocate). Unfortunately I can't write other prisoners. Gloria GIBSON, BFO-1955 Box 172, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

RADICAL TEACHER, a publication of radical politics and education, is FREE to prisoners. Write: Radical Teacher, PO Box 102, Cambridge, MA 02142.

GCN GAY AND LESBIAN PRISONER PROJECT

We send free papers, books (when they are donated and money for postage is available), and run free penpal ads. (There's sometimes a long waiting list because of limited space.) As we get more volunteers we'll be looking for other ways to make the connections between lesbians and gay men behind bars and those of us on the outside. If you can help with your time or a contribution of mainly gay paperbacks or of money), we are at 167 Tremont, Boston, MA 02111. THANKS!

Prisoners getting books from GCN might like to send a note of thanks (if you have the extra postage; don't worry about it if you don't) to Fred Welch, P.O.Box 447, Palo Alto, CA 94302. He's been sending us a lot of stamps to send out books with.

To Frederick REINHART (Breeze): I saw your letter in GCN and wanted to tell you I miss and still love you. Will see you in about 5 months. Michael Eines.

Gay man serving time in FL, formerly from Boston area, seeking correspondence and hopefully someone to come home to. Michael EINES, B073616, Box 158, Lowell FL 32663.

Italian/American hedonist seeks taste of freedom through correspondence. Nolan Mark MACKEY, 47840, 2605 State St, Salem OR 97310.

While discussing my feelings with a queen who has befriended me, she gave me your name and address saying you would help me find a friend. I'd like to correspond with a serious minded queen. Daniel P. DODDY, 067965, Box 500, Olustee FL 32072.

Black, healthy an into writing, art work, poetry, seeking friendship from all; serious-minded, but can be humorous. Stanley Patrick MITCHELL, PO Box 700, 5945, Jessup MD 20794.

Lonely prisoner wishing to write to anyone that needs a friend and understanding. Thank you for everything you do for us. August CASSANO, 145-242, PO Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Prisoners Seeking Friends

Arkansas area Gay/Lesbian/TV-TS prisoners and their friends! We are your Ark. area contact for help and support. Write us at: Minority Prison Project, PO Box 3541, Little Rock AR 72203.

PAUL, your birthday is near and I wish you the best. You are loved by a lot of people, but none more than myself. I love you. Jeffrey Kosclelak.

Jailhouse Lawyers Manual

How to file a 1983 suit; basic procedures in filing suits, motions; prisoners right to help one another; how to do legal research; legal forms; and sources of support and publicity. Free, while they last from GCN Prisoner Project, 167 Tremont, Boston MA 02111.

GM in prison would like to write anyone, M or F. Play chess by mail, or talk on cassette tapes. Very lonely. Need a friend. Wayne L. MORRIS, 41222, PO Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.

Extremely lonely gay man with many interests seeking correspondence with anyone who cares for some honest heartfelt conversation. I'm 32 and sure would like to meet someone who's glad to be gay. Steven GRABER, PO Drawer 1072 MN 304, Arcadia FL 33821.

I'm 33, divorced, with salt and pepper hair and big brown loving eyes. I'm an artist and photographer by trade. I hope someone out there would enjoy writing me. Andrew C. SMITH, 026247, Box 158 (H-787), Lowell FL 32663.

I'm a Leo, very gay (since 14), and I would like to hear from some of your readers. Even if you are not able to place an ad for me I still think it's wonderful that there is such a paper! Allan W. VIRGIN, 76670, Max. Tucker AR 72168.

I'm enclosing a small drawing (above) and will try to send more, because I do like to draw. I'd like to have my name place in you penpal section too if possible. Versatile, athletic, and openminded. I love to read poetry and my favorite writer is Kahlil Gibran. I also enjoy books and literature of Black history. Thanks for everything. Eddie HAMMONDS, EF-122289, Reidsville GA 30499.

I really enjoy poetry, westerns and horror type stuff. And most of all a penpal would be the greatest reading material. Hoping you can help me a little. Thanks! John J. SMITH, 13574, PO Box 30, Pendleton IN 46064.

Young guy wishes to write convincing TVs and all TSs. I just LOVE TSs. 121871, PO Box 500, Boydton VA 23917.

I'd like to find a penpal, especially a foreign one (from Germany, for example) and also am wondering what sort of gay organizations there are around here in Lexington. Here's my ad: Cabbage Patch Look Alike, stuck in barbed wire. Peri MATSON, 87991-024 Numan, PO Box 2000, Lexington KY 40507.

I'm 24 and lonely and would appreciate a friend or two. My hobbies are writing, poetry, art, and weighlifting. David FULLERTON, 107288, Box 97, McAlester OK 74502.

Incarcerated physically but not mentally. Would like tocommunicate with others to exchange ideas. Interested in basketball, swimming and reading. Walter Lee ROSS, 37952, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.

Would like to correspond with intelligent adults. Nationality, race or sex will be no barrier. I seek an exchange of ideas mainly and a friend to ease my boredom. Eddie GIVHAN, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.

Thanks for your letter. I'd like to clear up my thoughts on my preferences for older men that I mentioned before. I am in here now because a guy about my age "cut me loose" when I needed him most. Most people my age like to "party" much more than I do. There are things I want to accomplish in my life and I can't afford to waste any more of it. Hoping a penpal is on the way. Larry THOMAS, C-55735, PO Box 600, Tracy CA 95376.

Single lonely gay male. Race is not important. Please send nude pic if you can. I will write more when someone writes. Thank you. Michael ANDERSON, 11534-2, Box 473, Westville IN 46391.

Stocky blond Texan looking for some sincere people to exchange dreams and letters with. I enjoy keeping in shape, reading, and horseback riding. Send photo if possible. Kenneth LIMBAUGH, 378005, Rt 3 Box 59, Rosharon TX 77583

CALENDAR

May 4 to May 17

4 saturday

Boston — Spring **potluck** with Daughters of Bilitis. 7:30PM. All women welcome. $3. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge — Libana, a women's ethnic ensemble, in concert; Paine Hall, Harvard Univ. 8PM. $7/door, $6/advance. Info: 864-6912.

Boston — Triangle Theater's production of John Preston's *Franny, the Queen of Provincetown*. 8PM. 58 Berkeley St., 3rd floor. $8, seniors and students $7. Continues Thurs., Fri., Sat. till May 4. Info: 353-0434.

Cambridge — Amethyst Women's Annual **Talent Show**; 7:30PM. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. $4 more/less. Free childcare. Drug- and alcohol-free.

Cambridge — Betsy Rose & Fred Small in concert; Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., Harvard Sq. 8PM. $7.50, advance/$8.50, door. Info: 491-8334.

Allston — *A Bold Stroke for a Wife,* performed by **Double Edge Theatre**; Church of Sts. Luke and Margaret, 40 Brighton Ave. 8PM. $8, $7 students & senior citizens. Info: 776-9474.

5 sunday

Boston — Light Opera, "Springtime in Vienna." Jordan Hall, N.E. Conservatory, Huntington Ave. 4PM. $5-15. Info: 536-2412.

Dorchester — GALA Potluck supper with brief reading by Jeff Black from his novel, *Extra Credit*. All gay/lesbian Dorchester residents welcome. 7PM. Info: 288-3228 or 825-1352 (before 10PM).

Cape Cod — Bike get-together for women. Bring lunch, water, bicycle. Meet 11AM sharp. Directions: Deb, 398-1557.

6 monday

Cambridge — Women and Computers, an all-day symposium. MIT, Bldg. 9, Rm. 150. Begins 11AM. Info: 253-8844.

Boston — Lisa Duggin's **anti-anti-porn** lecture broadcast on WMBR radio (88.1 FM). (1st half only) 5PM.

7 tuesday

Cambridge — Program for Adult **Children of Alcoholics.** Touchstone Center for Personal Growth, 678 Mass. Ave., Suite 401. 7:30PM. $8. Info: 576-2114 or 371-2238.

Boston — National Lawyers Guild reception for Stephen Bingham, radical lawyer and former fugitive. 14 Beacon St., Rm. 101. 5-7PM. $2. Info: 227-7335.

Cambridge — Rape Awareness presentation for women. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. $1. Info: 661-3633.

8 wednesday

Provincetown — Forum on harassment and violence against gay men and lesbians. Provincetown Town Hall. 7:30PM. Free and open to the public.

Cambridge — Beantown Softball League's Monte Carlo Night; Campus, 21 Brookline St., Central Sq. 9PM. $2. Info: 731-6166.

9 thursday

Boston — *Gay Community News* always needs help on production night when articles are proofread and pasted up. If you've done **proofreading** or **layout** and would like to volunteer, stop by 167 Tremont St. 5th Floor (5-8pm for proofing, 7:30-11pm for layout). Come help out *GCN* and read tomorrow's news today.

Debbie Rich

Rosemary Dunn Dalton, BL/GPA president, see May 8

Boston — Lesbian & Gay Community **Networking Breakfast.** 8AM at the Club Cafe, 290 Columbus Ave. at Berkeley. Presentations by BL/GPA and Anne Marie Silvia, Boston's AIDS coordinator.

Boston — Lesbians **Choosing Children** Network — "Childcare for Lesbian Parents"; UMass at Park Square, 100 Arlington St. 7:30PM. Info: 868-6922 or 522-2180.

Cambridge — JoAnn Loulan, author of ***Lesbian Sex.*** New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 7:30PM. Info: 876-5310.

10 friday

Boston — GCN VOLUNTEER NIGHT!!! **Come help send out the paper to our subscribers.** Refreshments and good times. Come anytime after 6PM to 167 Tremont Street, 5th Floor (near Boylston and Park Street "T" stops). If the door is locked, buzz us on the *GCN* intercom located outside the front door.

Boston — BL/GPA's **Auction '85.** Dome Room, Lenox Hotel. Reception, 6:30PM; auction begins 7:30PM. $5 donation requested.

Boston — Oneg and **discussion on the Mid-East** with Am Tikva. Hill House, 74 Joy St., Beacon Hill. 8PM. Info: 782-8894.

Boston — Sisters in the Spirit concert with Semenya McCord, et. al.; to benefit Poor People's United Fund. John Hancock Hall. 8PM. $8. Info: 262-5922.

11 saturday

Boston — Black and White Men Together/Boston **yard sale.** 195 W. Newton. 10AM-4:30PM. (Raindate: 5/12) Info: 536-1160.

Boston — *Choosing Children* shown as part of awards presentation of New England Film Festival; Boston Film/Video Foundation, 1126 Boylston St. 8PM. Also showing Sunday. $4.50. Info: 266-7455.

Worcester — Toshi Reagon, Marion Streetpeople and Virginia Rubino; concert to benefit Worcester Rape Crisis Program; United Congregational Church, 6 Institutional Rd. 8PM. $5. Info: 248-6294.

Ossipee, NH — Mt. Black Snout/Mt Shaw **day hike** with Chiltern Mt. Club. All welcome, not strenuous. Info: Tim, (603) 539-7431 or Brian, (617) 536-2522.

Larry Murray

Jim Vetter, see May 11

Boston — "Illusions," **mime and magic** by Jim Vetter. Mirage Studio Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 551 Tremont St. 8PM. (Also Fridays through 4/25) $5. Info: 267-4170.

Boston — Libana, a women's ethnic ensemble. Faneuil Hall. 8PM. $7/door, $6/advance. Info: 864-9612.

Allston — Deborah Silverstein and Jan Downey to perform; Common Sense Coffeehouse, Club Pub, 449 Cambridge St. 8:30PM. Info: 661-7263.

Salem — Spring Fundraising **Auction** for North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Town Hall, Derby Sq. 6:30PM. $1. Cash Bar. Info: 745-3848.

Lowell — Day trip to Amoskeag Mills with Daughters of Bilitis. All women welcome. Info: Pat, 725-5756 or 738-5364.

12 sunday

Cambridge — Black & White Men Together membership meeting and social at the Philips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 1-5PM. Info: 536-1160.

Plum Island — Wild Women of D.O.B. head for Hellcat Swamp. Leave Cambridge 9:30AM. Info: Mimi, 924-1543.

Boston — Ongoing women's **book discussion** group open to new members. 6-8PM. This week: Kim Chernin's *In My Mother's House*. Info: Nancy, 489-3601, or Liz, 666-0350.

Somerville — Brunch and stories with Tita Wernimont. Peasant Stock Restaurant, 415 Washington St. Brunch seating at noon, performance, 1PM. $6.95. Reservations: 354-9528.

Boston — Red Hearts monthly potluck brunch for **leftward-leaning** gay men: newcomers welcome. Bring healthy food to share. 11AM. Info: Clay, 547-5166.

14 tuesday

Cambridge — Cambridge Lesbian and Gay **Alliance** steering committee: discussion of upcoming Candidates Night, new Human Rights Commission and Gay Pride Events. 8PM. Info: 547-2197.

15 wednesday

Boston — Reservations deadline for Black and White Men Together Eastern Region **dinner dance** on Memorial Day weekend. $25. Info: 536-3392.

17 friday

Boston — Cris Williamson, Teresa Trull, Barbara Higbie & Tret Fure in concert; interpreted by Susan Freundlich; The Opera House, 539 Washington St. $12.75/$13.75. Info: Julianne Fiore, 242-0751 or Cyndie Barone, 426-3888.

Notes

The Normal Heart, *by Larry Kramer. Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg. A New York Shakespeare Festival Production, presented by Joseph Papp, at the Public Theater, New York City.*

The Normal Heart is a fictionalized account of Larry Kramer's efforts to rouse New York to action in the early days of the AIDS crisis, and of the obstacles he and others faced, particularly at the Mayor's office and the New York *Times*. Through this political story runs the growing love between the Kramer figure, writer Ned Weeks (Brad Davis) and closeted *Times* fashion writer Felix Turner (D.W. Moffett), a relationship cut short by Turner's AIDS-related death.

The Normal Heart was a hard play to like — or to dismiss. As the evening wore on, my gratitude to the Public for producing a script which seeks to make a much-needed political statement gradually turned to frustration, and I left the theater disappointed and ambivalent. Part of this had to do with the production, which is very well cast, but not well directed. Most of the problems, however, lie in the script.

The first problem is Kramer's self-serving self-portrait: he clearly wants us to see Weeks as a total hero, even when the character's obsessively obnoxious behavior alienates others. Had the author been able to draw his protagonist with a bit more detachment and irony, Weeks might have emerged as truly human and sympathetic; as it is, both the playwright and his stand-in are in effect constantly screaming at us, "Love me and accept me — or fuck you." Another disappointment: the actual writing is awfully square and straight. Funny and perceptive scenes — for instance, the first date between Weeks and Turner — are outnumbered by ones that are predictable, cliche-ridden, and alternately over- and underwritten.

The play even falls short of its main goal as a polemic. It's good to have the whole dismal political history of the epidemic set out — especially since most of it will be new to straight audiences — and Kramer knows how to launch effective diatribes against religious fundamentalists, complacent liberals, closeted government employees, egocentric health researchers and sluggish bureaucrats. But he can't pull the pieces together in a way that would give us a new and useful understanding of the collusion, conscious or accidental, between these various groups, nor does he ever choose to broaden the scope of the play to include people other than gay men who have found themselves similarly disempowered over the past four Reaganized years. In other words, Kramer is trying to write a political play without actually having any politics — except the politics of getting angry.

This applies even more strongly to the sexual politics, especially Kramer's blunt, unwavering "tell gay men to stop having sex" position. There are signs that he's still so angry at some gay men (including himself) for literally fucking around for a decade that he can neither acknowledge what was pleasurable and human about such behavior, nor figure out why it took place. And without some sort of acceptance and understanding of where we've been and what we've done, who among us can put anger behind and move on to healthy new choices? What counts in the end is love and respect — for oneself, for others and for life. While I don't doubt for a minute that Kramer shares this belief, in *The Normal Heart*, he has too often buried love and respect under anger, fear and lack of self-awareness.

— *Nicholas Deutsch*

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

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